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Death papers OK'd for man who went missing at Grotto. PAGE 5

Body found in Kagman

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A body that, according to police, was already decomposing, was found in the village of Kagman over the weekend and initial findings indicate that the person died of cardiac arrest.

In a Department of Public Safety news release, it said that officers responded to a call about a deceased person in a residence in Kagman and that the officers came upon a body that was already decomposing.

The Commonwealth Health Center, through Dr. Nicholas Villalon, gave a time of death of 9:20pm on the same day when the body was found, indicating cardiac arrest as the cause of death.

The department has yet to answer media inquiries about the gender of the individual, name, or the exact day and time the person died. The department has not answered whether an autopsy was performed on the deceased or not to determine the cause

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Torres: Light ahead for economy

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The second quarter of the current fiscal year is taking on a brighter sheen for the CNMI economy, said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, signaling that the Commonwealth is getting back on track after being sideswiped by the ferocious winds of Super Typhoon Yutu in October last year.

That's making the Torres administration confident that CNMI revenues would pick up in the

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HANDS-ON LEARNING

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance held its second workshop for its annual "Schools for Environmental Conservation" program by hosting the participants on Managaha Island last March 9, 2019. Participating in this year's program are students from Mount Carmel School, Dandan Middle School, Hopwood Middle School, and Tanapag Middle School. This year's SFEC theme is "Learning About and Actively Addressing Marine Debris in the CNMI." MINA

WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

A black robe for an armor

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

"Little black dresses" have always been staple in every woman's wardrobe. But for female judges, wearing the black robe is the rule—not a fashion statement but a clear demonstration of a commitment to uphold the Constitution, rule of law, and justice for all.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Villagomez Manglona has been in and out of this robe for many years since she started her career in the judiciary—in 2003 as an associate judge of the CNMI Superior Court and currently as the first female chief judge of the local district court.

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Key takeaways from Mueller's Russia findings

By CHAD DAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Special counsel Robert Mueller spent 22 months examining whether Donald Trump's campaign conspired with Russia to sway the 2016 election.

His conclusion? No collusion.

But the question of whether Trump obstructed justice wasn't so clear cut. In laying out Mueller's findings , Attorney General William Barr said the special counsel didn't weigh in

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Local

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH

A black robe for an armor

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

BEA CABRERA

"I encourage a young girl who wants to be a lawyer to not let anyone dissuade her because she is a girl," said Chief Judge Ramona Villagomez Manglona of the U.S. District Court of the Northern Mariana Islands in Garapan.

"Little black dresses" have always been staple in every woman's wardrobe. But for female judges, wearing the black robe is the rule—not a fashion statement but a clear demonstration of a commitment to uphold the Constitution, rule of law, and justice for all.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Villagomez Manglona has been in and out of this robe for many years since she started her career in the judiciary—in 2003 as an associate judge of the CNMI Superior Court and currently as the first female chief judge of the local district court.

She recounts that it was former governor Juan Babauta who appointed her to the Superior Court where she served for eight years. She was then offered the opportunity to serve as district court judge and snagged the nomination of former U.S. president Barrack Obama. She was then confirmed to serve as district judge for a 10-year term.

"I am on my eighth year now. …Renewal is possible as my predecessor, senior judge Alex Robert Munson, was able to obtain nomination from former president [Ronald] Reagan and subsequently former president Clinton, making him serve in the position for 20 years," she added.

Manglona's legal journey is not without side trips. Most college graduates immediately go to law school but Manglona first got married, had two children, and then went to University of California at Berkeley where she obtained her juris doctor.

"I made my husband, John A. Manglona—currently an associate justice of the NMI Supreme Court—who was a lawyer at that time understand that if I was going to marry him, he also needs to understand that I intend to get my law degree. …It was a deal-breaker if he wouldn't help me in that path [but] he gave me assurance not to worry and he did follow through as he was raised by a family that believes education is important," she said.

The Manglona couple have two children: son Dencio, who works with the CNMI Public School System, and daughter Savana, who is currently in law school at the University of California in Davis and is graduating in May.

According to Manglona, her interest in law started when she was in middle school.

"I recall telling my mother that I wanted to become a lawyer and, interestingly enough, she told me, 'Well, if you are going to be an attorney, you will probably become a politician. Then you will deal with all these other issues so I don't think you should become a lawyer.' I was kind of surprised because she wasn't a politician herself so I thought then that, instead of law, I'll pursue business," she said.

"[But]…my interest in law did not die. The influence came from the very thought of being the one to help people make a difference and help people. …To me it was service… I wanted to use my career in law as a form of public service," she added.

Public service was indeed the backbone of her career. Manglona started her legal career in the CNMI as a law clerk at the CNMI Superior Court, then switched over to the CNMI Attorney General's Office Criminal Division and, after several years, moved over to the Civil Division. She subsequently became the deputy attorney general and then the first female attorney general of the CNMI. She was appointed to the Superior Court and moved to her current post at the district court.

"My husband and I attended the Liberation Day activities years ago and, at the parking lot, I saw a court staff with his young son. The court staff greeted me by saying 'Hi, judge!' and the young boy said in disbelief, 'She's a judge?' I chuckled because I was the only woman out of five judges in the Superior Court that time," Manglona said.

"It is fact that the Judiciary is a male-dominated field in many jurisdictions, including our own. …As a judge for eight years in the Superior Court, I really felt the sentiment that if I was going to do something, better make sure that it is right. …In the context of my current job at the district court, I'm very pleased to work with fellow female magistrate judge Heather Kennedy. It is actually comfortable and easy and I have a wonderful staff of professionals," she added.

The women that Manglona looks up to are Sandra Day O'Conner, a retired associate judge of the U.S. Supreme Court, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a current associate judge of the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Justice O' Connor was the first Supreme Court justice appointed by President Reagan. Talk about breaking through the glass ceiling. O'Connor got one out of the nine seats," she said.

"It took awhile before Justice Ginsberg got on the bench after being appointed by President Clinton in 1993 and now we are very lucky that we have three women in the bench. The fact that more and more women are able to practice law also allows women to be leaders and decision makers," she added.

In performing her duties and making decisions, Manglona knows that there is only so much that a judge can do.

"In the context of the decision-making process, one of the things I learned early when I was a prosecutor is you can only do the truth seeking process to a point because we gather information to know the truth and then render a decision. …That decision can be criticized or it may go up on appeal…but I realized that there is only so much that you can do [and] that is why you always do your best," she said.

"As a judge, my professional challenge every day is sentencing in criminal cases. The court has the mighty power to be the one to decide whether a person is going to have liberty or not. …That's always the difficult part because there is so much discretion given to us. …We are trying to formulate a sentence…that is fair, reasonable, and not more than necessary," she added.

Being a woman of many firsts in the CNMI means that Manglona is paving the way for more women.

"We have a lot of talented women in the community that could possible serve in the same capacity…. Look at what's happening in Guam. They have a woman governor, woman chief justice, chief district judge. …Communities are…acknowledging that women are effective not just in the household," she said.

"I encourage a young girl who wants to be a lawyer to not let anyone dissuade her because she is a girl…Pursuing law is an area that requires talent. You need to be able to have tolerance being able to sit down and read a lot. I'd also encourage her to continuously grow by reading because it is a different way of experiencing different things," she added.

While Manglona celebrates women empowerment, she also highlights the important role of men in women's lives.

"I believe that a lot of the successes of women is really from the support of men and I think it's a wonderful aspect that it is a shared value because I don't think we can ever survive without men. I am truly blessed to have a very strong and supportive husband that makes the journey a shared endeavor," she said.

"I am also very grateful and blessed to have a big family where everyone is very supportive. …Having them help me with my children when I was away was so immeasurable… That's the power of the families here on the island—there is always someone who is always willing to help out, whether in a small or big way and that always means a lot," she added.

Poker operators settle 4 cashiers' suit for $200K

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court approved on Friday an agreement that requires two poker operators and their principals to pay $200,000 in settlement to their current and former four cashiers who sued them for allegedly not paying them the minimum wage and overtime pay.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona found that the proposed amended settlement agreement to be fair and reasonable.

Katrina Del Gallego Demapan, Ma. Gina Tiozon, Mary Jane G. Muhi, and Emelinda E. Sanchez filed the lawsuit in April 2018 against two defendants—Zeng's American Corp., owner of Happy Poker, and Zeng American Corp.'s principal, Jin Dong Zeng, for alleged violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

When the original lawsuit was filed, Demapan, Tiozon, and Sanchez were then current employees of the defendants. Tiozon was no longer an employee.

In November 2018, the plaintiffs filed an amended complaint, naming two more defendants—Dong Fang Trading Corp., owner of Happy Poker II, and its principal, Xiu Fang Huang.

The parties then reached a settlement deal.

Under the settlement deal, the poker operators will provide an initial payment of $50,000 to the plaintiffs and a 24-month installment plan for the balance of the $200,000 settlement.

Individual defendants Zeng and Huang have provided security to the settlement in the form of two mortgages in their leasehold and subleasehold interests in property on Saipan.

Manglona, however, denied the parties' first motion for approval of settlement because it found that the proposed settlement agreement was not fair and reasonable.

Pertaining to the first motion for approval of settlement, Manglona determined that there is a bona fide dispute in this case and held that the first proposed settlement deal was mostly fair and reasonable, "save an overly broad release of claims provision."

The parties then amended the release provision to address the judge's concerns about its breadth.

In her order Friday granting the parties' joint second amended request for approval of settlement, Manglona said plaintiffs Demapan, Sanchez and Muhi received $2,000 in independent consideration for the release of their all FLSA and non-FLSA claims related to their employment.

Manglona said Tiozon did not receive any independent consideration, but her release was limited to claims that could be brought under the FLSA.

Additionally, the judge noted that the amended provision includes an acknowledgement that plaintiffs understand the nature and consequences of the release.

Manglona found that these provisions are sufficient to make the release fair and reasonable.

In her earlier ruling, Manglona approved plaintiffs' attorney Mark B. Hanson's 33 percent contingency fee as fair and reasonable.

The contingency fee proposed would result in attorney's fees totaling $65,529.

The judge said Hanson obtained a very successful settlement for his client, recovering 100 percent of their unpaid wages and 100 percent liquidated damages for their FLSA claims.

Manglona said applying the contingency fee to this amount, plaintiffs still receive 100 percent of their back wages as well as 48.5 percent of their liquidated damages.

Manglona said there is nothing to indicate a conflict of interest between plaintiffs and their attorney to taint the settlement amount.

Second, the judge said, plaintiffs' recovery is spread out over a two-year period, which extends their attorney's representation until April 2021.

Third, she said, the risk of non-payment by the defendants is shared equally by plaintiffs and their attorney, Hanson.

Manglona said Hanson diligently researched public records to identify the correct defendants and establish his clients' claims.

'Re-introduce, amend HLB 21-6'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, in his capacity as acting governor last week, suggested to Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) to re-introduce and amend House Local Bill 21-6, Draft 1 that would re-appropriate $100,000 to the Rota Island Specialty Crop Association.

Palacios informed Manglona that he and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres support the intent of H.L.B. 21-6 but he vetoed the bill due to his concern over encroachment of duties and functions.

"While Gov. Torres and I support the intent of this bill to assist the local Rota fishermen and farmer's programs, I must express my sincere concern for what appears to be this legislation's encroachment of a critical executive function suitably fit for the [Finance] secretary in its mandate that any proposed used of the funds for a loan or grant program or other expenditures be submitted to the Rota delegation chair for review and approval by delegation resolution," Palacios said in his message to the Rota delegation.

Manglona chairs the Rota Legislative Delegation.

In introducing H.L.B. 21-6, delegation vice chair Rep. Donald A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) sought to amend Rota Local Law 20-8 and re-appropriate $100,000 to RISCA.

"I strongly recommend that H.L.B. 21-6, D1 be re-introduced and amended to grant the secretary of [the Department of] Finance expenditure authority over these funds as it is the more appropriate procedure. For this reason, I must respectfully exercise my constitutional authority to veto this bill at this time," added Palacios in his message to Manglona.

Section 2(q) of R.L.L. 20-8 states that $100,000 is appropriated for Afanelos Marianas Inc. that would assist the programs for all Rota fishermen and farmers under the expenditure authority of the chairperson of the non-profit group. The money is part of the $1,402,810.12 allotment for the First Senatorial District from its share of the casino license fees under Public Law 18-56.

However, any proposed use of funds for a loan program must first be submitted to the RLD chair for review and approval through a delegation resolution. The delegation chair would then submit a report detailing the expenditures within 30 days after the end of fiscal year 2018.

The current delegation learned that the funds appropriated for AFI remains intact after the group was dissolved and RISCA was formed in its place. H.L.B. 21-6 would have taken the money that was intended for AMI and given it to RISCA.

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MIHA Housing to go up for sale

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The MIHA Housing in Garapan, which consists of several freestanding government-built homes, is one of multiple properties that the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. will putting up for sale/lease due to the lack of workers needed to maintain and repair the units.

NMHC corporate director Jesse Palacios affirmed the MIHA Housing, one of NMHC's properties, will be put up for sale because there are not enough laborers to continue the upkeep of the housing units.

"This is strictly our property but we had to sell because the existing structures there are outdated [and] dilapidated, so the ones that are still good are the ones that haven't been abandoned or used recently, so there's not much wear or tear," he said.

"It's the shortage of the construction companies and some of the properties require major renovations and we're trying to keep the ones with minimal renovations so we can just turn them over and rent hem out, but the ones that's require major renovations, it means more money we have to put in," he added.

Palacios did mention that the existing units that house NMHC clients will not be put up for sale, just the abandoned structures.

The corporation has already put up other properties for sale or lease in Kagman, Dandan, Tinian, and Rota.

"We're making them available for both [sale and lease]. The one for lease is for those people who are not [of Northern Marianas descent], so if you're not from here, you can still lease the property for 55 years so we're not limiting the ownership to NMDs. It's for everyone, "he said.

The properties that have already been put out for sale are the properties the corporation has acquired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "For us to get our money back, we have to sell the properties," he said.

All the properties that are up for sale or lease are residential, according to Palacios. "We don't have vacant lands. They'll have houses on them, but most are abandoned," he said.

Palacios added that the properties that are up for sale or lease are properties that individuals have shown interest in.

"One of the other reasons we sell these properties is because people come to us and they show interest. We don't really announce on the paper and…whenever someone is interested, that's when we actually try to sell it," he said.

For more information, feel free to visit the NMHC office in Garapan.

Comments sought for proposed Marine Corps project

ASAN, Guam—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas announces the availability of a Programmatic Agreement Memo for review and comments through April 26, 2019.

PA Memos provide an opportunity for all members of the community to participate in the Section 106 consultation process required under the National Historic Preservation Act.

The PA Memo is available on the NAVFAC Pacific Cultural Information webpage at http://go.usa.gov/kZWG. ***(PR)***

KEY

From Page 1

on the question. Instead, Barr ultimately made the call that Trump didn't violate the law, a move that quickly drew criticism from House Democrats who say the president is hardly in the clear.

Some key takeaways from Mueller's findings:

NO COLLUSION BETWEEN THE TRUMP CAMPAIGN AND RUSSIA

Mueller made that clear.

Barr quotes Mueller's confidential report as saying the investigation "did not establish that members of the Trump Campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government in its election interference activities."

That finding was a win for Trump, who has turned "no collusion" into a daily refrain.

The letter is short on detail, though. And Barr says he will have to consult with Mueller and other Justice Department officials before he can release more of Mueller's confidential report or any other information he gathered during the investigation.

Barr's letter didn't say what Mueller learned that fell short of a crime about a broad range of Trump associates who had Russia-related contacts. It also didn't answer why several of those people lied to federal investigators or Congress during the Russia probe since there wasn't any direct coordination going on.

NO SMOKING GUN ON OBSTRUCTION. BUT NO EXONERATION, EITHER

Mueller punted on whether Trump obstructed justice, deciding not to make a judgment "one way or the other."

"While this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him," Mueller wrote in his report.

Trump

Instead, the special counsel laid out the evidence on both sides of the question.

According to Barr, Mueller left unresolved what he viewed as the "'difficult issues' of law and fact concerning whether the President's actions and intent could be viewed as obstruction."

BARR MADE THE CALL ON PROSECUTING OBSTRUCTION

Absent a recommendation from Mueller, Barr said he stepped in.

Barr, who was appointed by Trump, says he and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein decided there wasn't sufficient evidence to establish that the president obstructed justice.

That conclusion was based on Mueller's investigation, Barr said. It was not a reflection of the Justice Department's view that a sitting president can't be indicted.

Barr said he determined that none of Trump's actions amounted to obstruction and that there was not sufficient evidence to show he acted with a "corrupt intent."

He also noted there wasn't an underlying crime involving Trump.

THE BAR FOR COLLUSION PROSECUTION WAS HIGH

The letter sheds some light on how Mueller approached the collusion question.

In assessing whether Americans committed crimes related to Russia's election interference, Mueller was looking for a specific agreement "tacit or express" between the Trump campaign and the Russian government.

Barr said investigators didn't find that. But his letter does contain a nod to some of the Trump campaign's contacts with Russia, noting that Mueller uncovered "multiple offers from Russian-affiliated individuals to assist the Trump campaign."

Grand jury witnesses have shown that Mueller scrutinized a June 2016 meeting at Trump Tower involving a Russian lawyer. The president's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., took the meeting even though it was described as a Russian government effort to help his father. Trump Jr. expected the meeting to produce derogatory information on Hillary Clinton.

Court papers also show that Mueller uncovered that a Maltese professor told a Trump campaign foreign policy adviser that the Russians had dirt on Clinton in the form of emails— a message passed along weeks before it became public that Democratic groups had been hacked. Trump was also trying to cut a business deal in Russia during the campaign, an effort that included his personal lawyer discussing the proposal with a Kremlin official.

But according to Mueller, the Americans involved didn't violate the law.

IS TRUMP OUT OF THE WOODS?

No.

Trump also plays a central role in a separate case in New York, where prosecutors have implicated him in a crime. They say Trump directed his personal lawyer Michael Cohen to arrange illegal hush-money payments as a way to quash potential sex scandals during the campaign. New York prosecutors also are looking into Trump's inaugural fund.

Congressional investigations also are swirling around the president. Democrats have launched a sweeping probe of Trump that threatens to shadow the president through the 2020 election season.

And they're now demanding that Barr turn over Mueller's confidential report and the underlying evidence he gathered so they can draw their own conclusions.

They're also calling for Barr to testify on Capitol Hill.

BODY

From Page 1

of death and an estimate on the time when the individual died.

According to an online source, the human body starts the process of decomposition around 24-72 hours after death so a human body would have to be dead for a day or two before it starts to decompose.

On Saturday at around 6:20pm, DPS central received a call reporting a possible dead person at a residence in Kagman and DPS officers were dispatched to the scene.

As they approached the residence, DPS officers noticed a foul odor coming from the house. Upon entering the house, officers saw an individual lying on the floor. The individual was in the stage of decomposition.

At the scene, responding officers asked for assistance of Crime Scene technicians and detectives. They arrived at 7:36pm and gathered evidence from the scene.

At 8:59pm, the individual's body was transported to the Commonwealth Health Center and DPS personnel arrived at the morgue with the deceased at 9:17pm.

Villalon gave the time of death of 9:20pm and cardiac arrest as the cause of death.

DPS would like to remind the community to not touch, tamper, or relocate items within or around a scene, and call 911 immediately.

TORRES

From Page 1

coming months. He pointed out that the CNMI's economic activity relies on the tourism industry, and last week's inaugural flight of Japan's Skymark Airlines gives a strong boost to efforts to revive the economy.

"While we already have losses in the first quarter, what we're doing now is looking at our projection getting into the second quarter. And we're gaining resources, but not to the level where it [compensates for] the earlier losses," said Torres.

He did not cite specific numbers as they are still waiting for the new report of the Department of Finance for the second quarter of the current fiscal year that ends later this month.

He added that his administration is looking to submit to the Legislature a proposed budget for the CNMI government's operations by April 1; acting Finance secretary David Atalig has already projected a 4.7-percent shortfall in revenues.

That's why, Torres said, he encouraged the government's two other branches—the Legislature and Judiciary—to implement their own cost-containment measures.

"Obviously, we have a current reduction on our budget. I just sent a letter to the Legislature and Judiciary to inform them about it. Also, to the respective agencies and departments that we fund, to let them know that they need to make their own cuts of up to 15 percent."

He added the 15-percent cut is across the board as per Atalig's recommendation. "And we're still at a loss and we don't want to wait until the end of the [FY] year. So, that's why we're making these changes."

Torres said the reimbursements that they expect from the Federal Emergency Management Agency would also help the CNMI's current situation, but it will be a long process of getting back the money already spent by the government.

"I believe that we should be getting our reimbursements back in a couple of weeks and months ahead of us. We have quite a few reimbursements that we already asked. We're working with FEMA on a daily basis to get our reimbursements back as soon as possible."

He added the CNMI would receive the FEMA reimbursements in portions, as it will all depend on the worksheets and other information that they would provide on the money the government had spent for its relief and recovery efforts.

The administration, according to Office of Management and Budget special assistant Virginia Villagomez, is expecting the reimbursements to reach $210 million. The amount, however, is an estimate by the administration and it could be amended once all the data of the costs for Yutu are all added up.

FEMA's disbursement committee will also review all reimbursements as it handles all disaster recovery funds. FEMA is the one that handles the federal assistance request and the U.S. Congress would get involve with the funding if there's a need.

In an earlier interview, Atalig said the estimates could be based on projects that were done like power restoration, and construction and repairs done to schools, the Northern Marianas College, government buildings, and homes. "But not all these projects are completed."

Co-equal branch

House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) said the administration must be cautious in making any cuts and must show real numbers before making any pronouncements. "If you want to cut 15 percent across the board, show us real numbers."

"If it is about cutting, you can cut on your end, but remember the [CNMI] Planning and Budgeting Act does not allow you to take over the other branch of government. …In any way these cuts are going to happen…we need to share the burden so that the effects would be less."

Death papers OK'd for man who went missing at Grotto

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Superior Court granted last Friday the petition to declare the presumptive death of a man who went missing at the Grotto.

John J. Jones went missing after a dive at the Grotto back on Nov. 18, 2018. After five days, the search was called off and Jones has not been seen or heard of since.

On March 14, 2019, Jones' wife, Madelyn Ann Jones, of Renton, Washington, asked the court to direct the CNMI Registrar to prepare a death certificate establishing a presumption of death for her husband.

Last Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho issued an official order for the Registrar of Vital Statistics to prepare a death certificate marked "presumptive" for Jones that shows he died on Nov. 18, 2018.

According to the order, the court found that Jones was exposed to a specific peril of death, the sea, and has been absent for a continuous period during which he has not been heard from.

In the order, the court cited *In re Benedek,* a case similar to Jones'. Like Benedek, Jones was determined lost at sea and appeared to have drowned during a dive.

"Jones has been absent for a continuous period from Nov. 18, 2018, until the date of the hearing (116 days). During this time, his wife has not heard from him. Jones was last seen while scuba diving, low on air in his tank, in the open ocean outside of Grotto. The sea, as found in *Benedek*, poses a specific peril of death. Despite diligent efforts, Jones' absence has not been satisfactorily explained. No other explanation other than Jones' death is suggested to explain his disappearance. The court concludes, as a matter of fact, that Jones died on Nov. 18, 2018," the order states.

Madelyn Ann Jones, through counsel Rexford C. Kosack, asked the court to issue the order to complete a death certificate for her husband.

According to Kosack in the petition, the 65-year-old Jones left behind a wife of 46 years, two children, five grandchildren, and his mother.

Jones worked for the Federal Aviation Administration for 30 years and his last position was in operations engineering for the NAVAID Support Center. He served for two years in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Marine Corps.

According to reports from the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Jones went missing while scuba diving at the Grotto with three other persons in the morning of Nov. 18, 2018.

The search for Jones was called off several days later.

Kosack said Jones was one of two FAA employees temporarily detailed to Saipan to help repair the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport after it was damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu.

Kosack said Jones and the other FAA employee went diving last Nov. 18 for weekend relaxation. The two entered the waters to scuba dive at the Grotto with two other divers, who were both dive instructors.

Kosack said Jones and the other FAA employee were being led on a dive tour as customers of a diving company when they dove that day at the Grotto.

Kosack said that the four divers entered the water at the Grotto at 9am and swam together through one of the underwater passages to outside the Grotto.

When the four divers were outside the Grotto, Jones signaled to one of the dive instructors that he was running low on air. At that time, he was about 60 feet below the surface of the ocean.

The dive instructor then used hand signals to inform the other dive instructor and FAA employee that he was also low on air and that they should return to the Grotto.

After that, the dive instructor turned back to Jones but he was no longer there.

The other dive instructor and FAA employee swam back into the Grotto through a passage without Jones, as the other FAA employee was also low on air.

The remaining dive instructor swam in the other direction toward the ocean to search for Jones.

The other dive instructor dropped the remaining FAA employee by the buoy inside the Grotto, then swam back through the passage to search for Jones.

Kosack said the two spent about 25 minutes searching for Jones, but they did not find him.

Kosack said the two returned to the Grotto, obtained fresh tanks of air and went back outside the Grotto to where they last saw John J. Jones.

He said the two divers searched up and down the cliffline outside the Grotto, but they were unable to find Jones.

The U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, and the DPS searched for Jones for several days. The search was suspended on Nov. 24.

Skymark happy with 'organized' SIA

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A ranking official of Skymark Airlines Inc. pronounced himself pleased and impressed with the facilities and the system at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

John Furuya, the low-cost carrier's assistant manager, said the safety of their passengers and staff is most important for them and this shows with how organized the Saipan airport is.

"We're very happy," said Furuya in an interview during Skymark's inaugural flight from Narita, Japan to Saipan last Friday.

Furuya said he has been in the aviation business for 30 years and having the CNMI as Skymark's first international venture is the most important thing in his career and his life.

He said when they were first looking at their options, they also considered other destinations. Furuya said they eventually chose Saipan due to the long historical ties between the CNMI and Japan.

"This destination is very important," he said, promising that, together with the Marianas Visitors Authority, they intend to promote Saipan in Japan.

Skymark's inaugural flight last Friday was part of its six-day charter direct flights that will end tomorrow, Wednesday.

Skymark, Japan's third largest carrier, will launch additional flights to Saipan in April and May for Japanese Golden Week.

Furuya said Skymark is expected to launch their regular daily flights in the summer—in July this year.

Each daily flight, he said, will be carrying 177 passengers, which translates to over 50,000 passengers per year.

With the daily flights, MVA expects a significant increase in arrivals from the slumping Japan market.

Furuya said that last Friday was good for a short jaunt because it's a spring break holiday in Japan, providing a long weekend.

He said last Friday's inaugural flight's package included accommodation for three days and three nights starting at 60,000 yen or about $580.

He said during the peak season, the tour package costs range from 120,000 to 150,000 yen or about $1,200 to $1,500.

Skymark is the first low-cost carrier in Japan. It currently has 150 domestic flights.

The CNMI government and Skymark signed a co-promotional agreement last year that would re-open direct flights between Japan and Saipan.

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EXPLORE YOUR WORLD
IT&E

Fire sprinkler firm sues DFEMS chief, fire inspector

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A company that installs fire sprinkler systems is suing Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Claudio K. Norita and a DFEMS fire inspector in federal court for allegedly causing it to lose a contract worth $410,150 when they refused to accept its permit application.

Double A Corp. is suing Norita and fire inspector Anthony Babauta for deprivation of property without due process.

Double A, through counsel Joseph E. Horey, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold Norita and Babauta liable to pay the company unspecified damages, court costs, and attorney's fees. It asked for a jury trial.

As of press time, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to obtain comments from Norita and Babauta.

Double A is engaged in the construction business with a specialty in fire sprinkler systems and fire suppression.

Babauta is a fire inspector at DFEMS. He is also a fire code official.

According to Horey in the complaint filed last Friday, Double A submitted a quotation to Proper Grand CNMI LLC last Oct. 20, 2017, for a fire sprinkler system installation in a complex of buildings operated by Proper Grand known as Sugar King Dormitory.

Norita

Horey said Proper Grand agreed to hire Double A for the project at a price of $410,150.

The arrangement was contingent on DFEMS approving Double A's plans for the sprinkler system, Horey said.

Double A then applied to Babauta for a permit authorizing it to install the sprinkler system.

Babauta allegedly refused to accept any permit application from Double A, failed to issue the permit sought, and failed to examine the company's application within a reasonable time.

The fire inspector also allegedly failed to issue any writing stating the reasons for his rejection of the application.

Horey said Double A appealed Babauta's refusal to accept the company's application for a permit to Norita.

Horey said Norita also refused to accept any permit application from Double A and failed to state the reasons for his rejection of the application.

As a result, the lawyer said, Double A was unable to obtain a permit from DFEMS authorizing it to install the sprinkler system.

Horey said both Babauta and Norita made comments to Double A indicating that the reason for their refusal to accept any permit from the company was an installation error allegedly committed by the company.

Horey said Norita and Babauta or another person on their behalf, contacted Proper Grand CNMI LLC and advised the company that Double A was not authorized to do any installation work.

Horey

As a result of Double A's inability to obtain a permit from DFEMS authorizing it to install the sprinkler system, the company was unable to perform its installation project agreement with Proper Grand.

Horey said that Proper Grand hired another contractor to install the system.

Horey said Double A lost the $410,150 value of its contract with Proper Grand.

He said Norita and Babauta maintained a list of contractors for whom they will grant permits to install.

The lawyer said the defendants have consciously excluded Double A from that list and, as a result, the company is unable to engage in its business of fire sprinkler installation and fire suppression.

Horey said the defendants have effectively "blacklisted" Double A y and "deprived the company of its liberty to freely contract for lawful business."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Mahi-mahi Fishing Derby set

The Saipan Fishermen's Association will hold the 15th Annual Mahi-mahi Fishing Derby on March 30, 2019. Prizes will include $1,000 cash for first place, with remaining placement prizes to be announced. The registration fee is $100 per boat, including one captain and one angler, and $10 for each additional angler. For more information, contact Marianas Visitors Authority community projects specialist Ray Villagomez at 1 (670) 664-3200/01 or rvillagomez@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

Weightlifting competition on Saipan

CNMI Weightlifting will hold a weightlifting competition on Saipan on May 18, 2019, at a time and place to be announced later. ***(PR)***

NMI Museum, SSHS partner in carwash fundraiser

The CNMI Museum of History and Culture and Saipan Southern High School's Student Council have partnered for a carwash fundraiser this Saturday, March 23, 2019 from 8am to 3pm. The SSHS Student Council is donating part of the proceeds from the carwash to the museum. Every carwash ticket bought would give the holder two free entries into the museum for a tour while they wait for their car to be washed and vacuumed. For more information about the carwash or for tickets call Elaiza Suarez at 783-0951, or Patsy Atalig at 788-2401. ***(PR)***

Scheduled power interruptions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

- **Tuesday, March 26, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 and Kiya 2 double distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: As Terlaje
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: As Terlaje and Fina Sisu • Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: W-6 and W-8
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace five (5) wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Wednesday, March 27, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 and Kiya 2 double distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: As Terlaje, Lower Dandan, Airport Road
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Lower Dandan and Airport Road
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: A-13 and A-14
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace five wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Thursday, March 28, 2019 – 8am to 1pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 1 and Feeder 3 double distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Garapan Middle Road
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Upper Navy Hill
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: China Town, Upper and Lower Navy Hill, As Falape and Chalan Galaide
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: S-8
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace one wooden pole with a concrete pole
- **Thursday, March 28, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 4 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Susupe
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Susupe and Chalan Kanoa
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: A-5 and A-11
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace five wooden poles with concrete poles

The purpose of the scheduled power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from the company Primary Source Electric to safely replace wooden poles with concrete ones.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE
Isa Villa Multifamily Housing Development Complex

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed expansion of 86 additional housing unites of the Isa Villas Multi-Family Development project. The Isa Villas project is a multifamily development complex consisting a total of six concrete buildings with three and four-bedroom unites, 150 regular parking spaces plus 6 ADA-compliant parking spaces, communal/recreational space, a community center, and driveways. The project site is located on Capitol Hill, Saipan, on a privately leased property identified as Lot Number 150 E 30.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for Thursday, April 04, 2019, at 5PM, at the Office of the Governor, 1st floor main conference room in Capitol Hill, Saipan.

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M., Monday thru Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Isa Villas Multi-Family Development project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP19-CHCC/DPH-CCCP-011
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 22, 2019 TIME: 09:00AM
"COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM EVALUATOR"
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.cda.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BIDS
2019-CDA-10-IFB
SUBMISSION AND OPENING
CLOSING DATE: Friday, April 5, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE FOR 29 SPLIT TYPE AIR CONDITION UNITS"

A copy of the bid may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA), Saipan Office, 2nd floor, CDA Building, Oleai, Saipan during regular working hours. The bid may also be obtained on our website at www.developcnmi.com.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

Dental Solutions
is looking for one (1)
employee to work as
Insurance Claims Clerk

Renewal (Full-time)
- Must have a minimum of three (3) years working experience in dental claim processing.
- Must be familiar with CDT dental procedure code for billing
- Do not apply if you do not meet the minimum requirements.
- We are not willing to train individuals lacking the necessary skills for this position.

Drop Resume with photo to our office located in Microbeach Road, Saipan
No Phone Calls please.

Kilili: Report Yutu discrimination

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is urging anyone who hasn't been given equal access to the services offered to all victims of Super Typhoon Yutu to get in touch with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Sablan

Sablan said that Public Law 100-707, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1998, protects individuals in a federally declared disaster area from any form of discrimination.

"If you think you have not been given equal access to services and benefits, contact FEMA's equal rights officers. If a phone call does not resolve the problem, you may file a written complaint with FEMA's Office of Equal Rights, generally within 180 days of the alleged discrimination," said Sablan.

Basic information like name, contact information, the name and address of the agency where the alleged discrimination was committed, names of persons that FEMA could get in touch with to verify the allegations, and other pertinent details of the incident should be included.

"Individuals who file discrimination complaints are also protected from retaliation, and should contact FEMA's Typhoon Yutu equal rights officer Jubén Delgado-Dávila if they believe they are the victims of retaliation," added Sablan.

For reports, call FEMA's ERO's at 1-800-621-3362 or TTY 1-800-462-7585 or get in touch with Delgado-Dávila at (202) 341-3984 or email juben.delgado-davila@fema.dhs.gov.

President Donald J. Trump released separate significant emergency and state of major disaster declarations for the CNMI following Yutu's devastation in October last year.

Additional disaster appropriation

In other news, Sablan said the U.S. Senate is set to act this week the disaster supplemental appropriation, H.R. 268, introduced by House Appropriations Committee chair Rep. Nita M. Lowey (D-NY 17th), that passed the House in January. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has already filed a motion to prepare for a vote on the Senate floor.

Sablan said a Senate version of H.R. 268, which is still being negotiated, include an additional $25.2 million for the Marianas food stamp program proposed by the Senate Appropriations Committee chaired by Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL), and Sens. David Perdue (R-GA) and Marco Rubio (R-FL).

Another $56 million is set aside for solid waste management while $10.4 million is reserved for water and sewer projects that were negotiated for the Marianas. The Marianas is also eligible for more than $1.8 billion in federal funds—recovery money from the Economic Development Administration $600 million), Rural Development ($150 million), and the Community Block Grant for Disaster Recovery ($1.06 billion).

"One area of difference [is] the $36 million for Medicaid that I amended to the House bill during floor debate. [The] Senate Republicans' bills have not included this money, even though Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres, also a Republican, has attested that Marianas Medicaid is out of money," said Sablan.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-015

ROTA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2 PROJECT (W17-053)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of gate valve assembly, PRV installations, PRV CMU protective boxes, fencing, restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **March 13th, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Sinapalo, Rota.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-015, Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 4, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 21, 2019** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Travis Spaeth, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer via email at travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-18-032 Rev 1.

Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-18-032 Rev.1 , Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than April 2, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 26, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-004

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF DIESEL GENERATING SETS FOR THE WATER SYSTEM MITIGATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning for the Water System Mitigation Project for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and CUC.

Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-19-004, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Diesel Generating Sets for the Water System Mitigation Project"*** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on April 16, 2019**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Proposal shall be submitted on the provided Proposal Forms. Proposals will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 3, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Marine Lab relocates corals growing in Guam ramp

Boaters now have fewer obstructions at the Merizo Pier boat ramp.

The University of Guam Marine Laboratory was authorized by the Guam Department of Agriculture to relocate corals from the ramp to a nearby reef.

Corals are protected by law, and a permit is required to move any coral in Guam's waters.

"We believe that it is in the public's best interest to move these corals," said Celestino Aguon, chief of the Division of Aquatic & Wildlife Resources at the department. "The relocation will improve boating access and minimize damage to the corals from boats."

Local residents have raised concerns about the corals growing on the ramp for some time, but repeated coral bleaching events made it risky to relocate them until now.

"Transplanting is stressful for corals," said Laurie Raymundo, the Marine Lab's acting director. "Conditions need to be right, and the corals need to be handled carefully to survive the move."

Raymundo is an expert on coral restoration and developed a plan to safely transplant the corals to their new location. She led the effort last March 21, supported by Marine Lab students and personnel from partner organizations including The Nature Conservancy and UnderWater World Guam.

The Marine Lab has been working with government agencies to improve local capacity for reef restoration and to test new methods such as coral propagation and transplanting. This project will build capacity for transplanting, while protecting these at-risk corals. ***(PR)***

The coral transplanting team included individuals from the University of Guam Marine Lab, The Nature Conservancy, UnderWater World Guam, and the Division of Aquatic & Wildlife Resources with the Guam Department of Agriculture. Back row, from left, Brent Tibbatts, Rafael Calderón, Colin Lock, Justin Berg, and Farron Taijeron. Front row, from left, Ka'ohi Kawahigashi, Coco Sartor, Sara Hamilton, Maylanie Balajadia, Mariel Cruz, Laurie Raymundo, and Claire Moreland-Ochoa. UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

An overhead view of the Merizo Pier prior to the transplant shows coral colonies growing at the edge of the ramp. UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Farron Taijeron of The Nature Conservancy, left, and Claire Moreland-Ochoa of the University of Guam Marine Laboratory attach a removed fragment of coral to an appropriate substrate. UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Rafael Calderón of UnderWater World holds a large colony removed from the boat ramp that he transported over to the recipient site.

A fragment of coral that was previously on the boat ramp now sits in a better habitat. UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Fiscal year's season for H-1B cap starts

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced last week the start of the fiscal year 2020 H-1B cap season, start dates for premium processing of cap-subject H-1B petitions, and the launch of its new H-1B data hub, while reminding petitioners of its new H-1B cap selection process.

These new efforts underscore the agency's commitment to supporting President Trump's Buy American and Hire American executive order designed to protect U.S. workers.

"USCIS continually strives to improve the administration of the H-1B program and make it work better for employers, our agency, and U.S. workers," said USCIS Director L. Francis Cissna.

"We are also committed to fulfilling the president's Buy American and Hire American executive order, one of the principal goals of which is to protect the interests of U.S. workers in the administration of our immigration system, in part by promoting the proper functioning of the H-1B visa program.

"Our new H-1B data hub will make information more accessible to the public, and the new selection process will help make the system more meritorious and better protect the wages of U.S. workers.

"Additionally, our two-phased approach to premium processing will make the process more effective and efficient for employers and USCIS."

Start of FY 2020 cap season

USCIS will begin accepting H-1B petitions subject to the fiscal year 2020 cap on April 1, 2019, and will reject any fiscal year 2020 cap-subject H-1B petitions filed before April 1.

H-1B petitioners must follow all statutory and regulatory requirements as they prepare petitions to avoid delays in processing and possible requests for evidence. Form M-735, Optional Checklist for Form I-129 H-1B Filings, provides detailed information on how to complete and submit a fiscal year 2020 H-1B petition.

Premium processing

Premium processing will be offered in a two-phased approach during the fiscal year 2020 cap season so USCIS can best manage the premium processing requests without fully suspending it as in previous years. The first phase will include fiscal year 2020 cap-subject H-1B petitions requesting a change of status and the second phase will include all other fiscal year 2020 cap-subject petitions.

Starting April 1, FY 2020 cap-subject H-1B petitioners requesting a change of status on their Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker, may request premium processing by concurrently filing Form I-907, Request for Premium Processing Service.

However, to prioritize data entry for cap-subject H-1B petitions, USCIS will not begin premium processing for these petitions immediately. USCIS will begin premium processing for these petitions no later than May 20, 2019, and will notify the public before premium processing begins for these petitions. If a petitioner does not file Form I-907 concurrently with an FY 2020 H-1B cap-subject petition requesting a change of status, the petitioner must wait until premium processing begins to submit Form I-907. Until premium processing begins for these petitions, USCIS will reject any Form I-907 that is not filed concurrently with a cap-subject Form I-129. Petitioners must appropriately select response "b" for Item 4 in Part 2 of Form I-129 to be eligible to concurrently file Form I-907.

Premium processing for all other fiscal year 2020 cap-subject H-1B petitions will not begin until at least June 2019. Cap-subject petitioners not requesting a change of status may not submit their premium processing request concurrently with their H-1B petition. These petitioners will be eligible to upgrade to premium processing by filing Form I-907 once premium processing begins for this group. USCIS will notify the public with a confirmed date for premium processing for cap-subject petitioners not requesting a change of status.

At this time, premium processing for H-1B petitions that are exempt from the cap, such as extension of stay requests, remains available.

New H-1B data hub

USCIS is also announcing the new H-1B Employer Data Hub that will be available on uscis.gov on April 1. The data hub is part of USCIS' continued effort to increase the transparency of the H-1B program by allowing the public to search for H-1B petitioners by fiscal year, NAICS industry code, company name, city, state, or zip code. This will give the public the ability to calculate approval and denial rates and to review which employers are using the H-1B program.

New H-1B cap selection process

In January, the Department of Homeland Security announced a final rule amending regulations governing cap-subject H-1B petitions, including those that may be eligible for the advanced degree exemption. The final rule reverses the order by which USCIS selects H-1B petitions under the H-1B regular cap and the advanced degree exemption, which will be in effect for the FY 2020 cap season. This simple change increases the chances that more of these visas will be granted to those with an advanced degree from a U.S. institution of higher education.

The H-1B program allows companies in the United States to temporarily employ foreign workers in occupations that require the application of a body of highly specialized knowledge and a bachelor's degree or higher in the specific specialty, or its equivalent. Congress has set a cap of 65,000 H-1B visas per fiscal year. An advanced degree exemption from the H-1B cap is available for 20,000 beneficiaries who have earned a U.S. master's degree or higher from a U.S. institution of higher education. The agency will monitor the number of petitions received and notify the public when the H-1B numerical allocations have been met.

For more information on the H-1B cap, and to subscribe to H-1B cap season email updates, visit the H-1B FY 2020 Cap Season page. For current Form I-129 processing times, visit the Check Case Processing Times page. ***(PR)***

Fight vs Guam's brown tree snakes takes to the air

ASAN, Guam—As part of a Department of Defense-funded project associated with the Marine Corps realignment, Joint Region Marianas and the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services made three brown tree snake aerial bait applications last March 11-15 to the Habitat Management Unit at Andersen Air Force Base.

The Aerial Delivery System is part of an ongoing, cooperative effort to suppress brown tree snakes to levels that support the reintroduction of Guam's native birds such as the *sihek* (Guam Micronesian kingfisher) and *ko'ko'* (Guam rail).

"The introduction of the Aerial (Delivery) System into this new phase enhances landscape level conservation efforts [in] Guam in our ongoing battle against the brown tree snake," said Robert "Goose" Gosnell, USDA WS state director.

Continuous improvement is key, according to John Salas, JRM regional environmental director.

"As we increase the effectiveness of Guam's snake control technology we also increase the chances that we can bring back our native seed dispersers like the *sali* (starling) and *fanihi* (fruit bat) to heal our forests."

The aerial bait applications have provided an opportunity to invite federal and government of Guam resource agencies to review plans, observe and provide necessary input. The strategy calls for more drops mid-year and the interagency team looks forward to more opportunities for collaborative planning and participation from all Guam stakeholders.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas, University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability, USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, and National Wildlife Research Center, and U.S. Geological Survey - Fort Collins Science Center, Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are all part of this coordinated, interagency conservation project. ***(PR)***

In this file photo dated Oct. 4, 2018, local and federal partners conduct aerial suppression of brown tree snakes at the 136-acre habitat management unit on Andersen Airforce Base. The area is surrounded by a snake exclusion fence and is an interagency test site established for biological resource studies, including invasive species control and forest restoration. LANCE CPL. SAMUEL BRUSSEAU

NEW ROTARIAN

Rotary Club of Saipan president-elect Marcia Ayuyu affixes the club pin on newly-inducted member Ryan Yulo's lapel last Tuesday as Rotary Club president Greg Borja looks on. ERWIN ENCINARES

Getting ready for the Women's Summit

The Women's Summit planning committee is gearing up for its 6th Annual CNMI Women's Summit, an event dedicated to empowerment, education, and connection.

The daylong event will be held Friday, March 29, from 7:30am to 4:30pm, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, and will revolve around the theme: "Lead-HER-Ship: Masters of our own Destiny."

A highlight of this year's program will be keynote speaker and ethnographer, oral historian, and research associate Rlene Santos Steffy.

A daughter of the Marianas, Steffy has contributed 40 years of historic preservation efforts through mass communication.

Her achievements and scholarship earned her the Guam Preservation Trust Chairman's Award, which for the first time in Guam history was awarded to a recipient who has displayed outstanding leadership in historic preservation.

This year's Women's Summit was conceived to promote the empowerment of women through women's woven voices, particularly by opening up discussion and engaging in deep conversation about issues that affect women.

In the morning, the summit will open with a TED-talk style presentation and moderated panel discussion on a variety of topics including Women and the Sustainable Development Goals, maternity and paternity paid leave, domestic violence and sexual assault, women's health and reproductive rights, and a discussion on the military buildup.

The summit will also feature a group breakout working session in the afternoon, where issues for policy advocacy and change and recommendations when/where policy is appropriate will be discussed and formalized as recommendations.

Recommendations for actions will be formally transmitted to the 21st CNMI Legislature for consideration and action.

For more information on the summit and the program, email cnmiwomen@gmail.com, visit https://www.facebook.com/cnmiwomen/, or call (670) 233-8978

Seats are limited for this free event.

Interested attendees are encouraged to register early: bit.ly/cnmiwomenssummit

Northern Marianas College will be live-streaming the morning session for those who wish to participate virtually.

The CNMI Women's Association would like to extend its appreciation to the following sponsors for making the 6th Annual Women's Summit possible: Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, *Marianas Variety*, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, NMC, IT&E – CNMI, and U-TOP Investment (Saipan) Inc. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-010

TANDUKI DRIVE ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Tanduki Drive Road Improvement Project**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **March 12, 2019** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **April 2, 2019**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **April 9, 2019** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening**.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW19-IFB-010".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time April 12, 2019**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, April 12, 2019**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 12, 2019** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **April 24, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, April 29, 2019. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time, on April 12, 2019**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the

face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Sixty (60) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

JOE A. TUDELA
Acting Director of Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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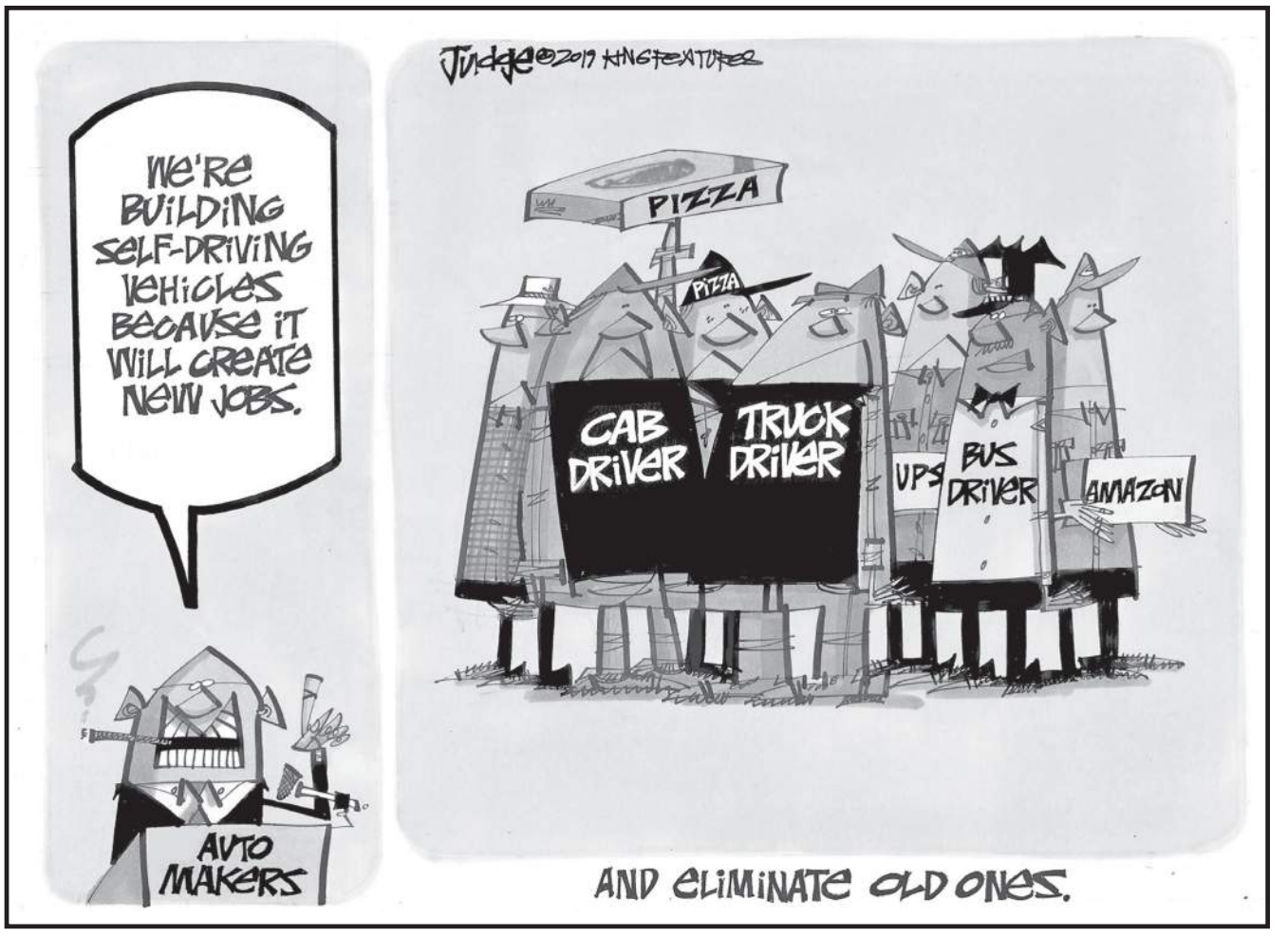

EDITORIAL

With no crimes alleged, Mueller and Barr hand Trump to Congress

As the report states: '(T)he investigation did not establish that members of the Trump Campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government in its election interference activities.'"

—U.S. Attorney General William Barr,
informing Congress of special counsel
Robert Mueller's findings, March 24, 2019

And now, flummoxed Democrats in the U.S. House must decide: Will they try to impeach President Donald Trump for alleged high crimes and misdemeanors—knowing that a Republican Senate wouldn't convict him? Or do they conclude that centrist voters have had enough of investigations, and instead double down on their determination to beat Trump on Nov. 3, 2020?

The Democrats had hoped special counsel Robert Mueller would identify illicit Trump ties to Russia, plus presidential obstruction of justice. But after 675 days of investigation, more than 2,800 subpoenas, nearly 500 executed search warrants and some 500 witness interviews, Mueller's team of lawyers and FBI agents "did not establish that members of the Trump Campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government."

Did Trump fall short of his constitutional obligations in another way, by trying to obstruct the government investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election? In his four-page letter to Congress, Attorney General William Barr said Mueller's report "does not exonerate" the president and instead "sets out evidence on both sides of the question." By leaving that question for others to ponder, Mueller sidestepped political landmines.

Yes, political. Because with no pending legal action, it's all political for now. That's one big takeaway from Barr's summary of the Mueller report, which Barr says he intends to disclose. Ambiguity on the obstruction question gives Democrats room to attack, and perhaps debate impeachment.

But after 22 months of investigation, resulting in numerous criminal charges and several convictions, Mueller's verdict will make that a tough sell to probe-weary Americans who aren't zealous foes or defenders of Trump. Plenty of politicians (mostly Democrats) and other critics could swear they sensed nefarious deeds committed in Trump Tower and elsewhere to connect his campaign to the Kremlin.

It's hard to overstate how much of their street cred many pols, pundits and pop culture celebrities invested in the narrative of Mueller as detective and savior. In his serial book "Hate Inc.," Rolling Stone's Matt Taibbi recalls "Saturday Night Live" cast members singing "All I Want for Christmas is You" to Mueller, featuring the rhymey line, "Mueller

See WITH on Next Page

Trump can take a victory lap

By TIMOTHY L. O'BRIEN
Bloomberg News

Timothy L. O'Brien is the executive editor of Bloomberg Opinion*. He has been an editor and writer for the* New York Times*, the* Wall Street Journal, HuffPost *and* Talk *magazine. His books include T*rumpNation: The Art of Being The Donald.

President Donald Trump scored a significant political and legal victory on Sunday. Attorney General William Barr, in a brief summary of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into the 2016 presidential election, said that Mueller has determined that Trump and his aides didn't conspire or coordinate with Russia in that country's efforts to sabotage the campaign.

Barr also said that Mueller hadn't uncovered evidence that Trump obstructed justice and that he and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein also determined that the Justice Department wouldn't file obstruction charges against Trump.

He pointed out that both men arrived at that decision apart from special "constitutional considerations" that would have been involved in trying to indict a sitting president.

Barr's summary is outlined in a succinct four-page letter he sent to Congress late Sunday afternoon. Although the letter surely gives the president and his team reasons to celebrate, Barr also noted that Mueller hadn't completely absolved them of wrongdoing.

"While this report does not conclude that the president committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him," Barr said, quoting language from Mueller's report.

Trump, jubilant, took to Twitter on Sunday evening to celebrate. But afforded the opportunity to take a victory lap, he still couldn't avoid misrepresenting what the Mueller report actually said. "No Collusion, No Obstruction, Complete and Total EXONERATION. KEEP AMERICA GREAT!" he tweeted.

Barr also observed that the president may have acted to obstruct justice, but to convict him of obstruction "the government would need to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a person, acting with corrupt intent, engaged in obstructive conduct." In other words, Barr and Mueller didn't believe that they could prove, in an airtight fashion, that Trump intended to obstruct justice when, for example possibly, he fired his former director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, James Comey, in early 2017. (The fact that Rosenstein himself drafted a memo for Trump that the president used to justify his firing of Comey surely complicates how he might have assessed that event when reviewing the Mueller report.)

The letter would also suggest—though it doesn't list any examples of some of the more well-known episodes that surfaced before and during Mueller's probe—that, for example, meetings in Trump Tower in 2016 involving Donald Trump Jr., Jared Kushner, Paul Manafort and a group of Russians offering compromising information about Hillary Clinton amounted to collusion.

What Mueller made of the president's apparent efforts to obfuscate about that meeting—or his dissembling about his company's efforts to engineer a business deal in Moscow during his presidential bid—will have to wait for further disclosures from the report.

Barr said he intends to "release as much of the Special Counsel's report as I can consistent with applicable law, regulations and Departmental policies." How much of the report Barr will make public is already an issue—and perhaps the source of coming political and legal conflicts—with Democrats in Congress demanding that it be released in its entirety.

"There must be full transparency in what Special Counsel Mueller uncovered to not exonerate the President from wrongdoing," Jerold Nadler, head of the House Judiciary Committee, said on Sunday. "DOJ owes the public more than just a brief synopsis and decision not to go any further in their work."

In what should be considered a rebuke to Mueller's critics who have, in various ways, accused him of being a Deep State operative engaged in what the president himself repeatedly referred to as a "witch hunt," the report appears to be a partial vindication for a president who has struggled in the shadow of the investigation for most of his tenure.

"The Special Counsel did not find any collusion and did not find any obstruction. AG Barr and DAG Rosenstein further determined there was no obstruction," Trump's press secretary, Sarah Sanders, tweeted on Sunday.

Like her boss, she also couldn't avoid distorting what the Mueller report apparently said.

"The findings of the Department of Justice are a total and complete exoneration of the President of the United States," she observed, contradicting Mueller's own assessment.

Still, if the report conforms to Barr's description of it, then one of the president's favorite talking points—"No collusion!"—now has the added strength of federal law enforcement's endorsement.

Barr pointed out that Mueller's nearly two-year probe involved 19 lawyers, 40 FBI agents, intelligence analysts, forensic accountants, 2,800 subpoenas, about 500 search warrants, 50

See TRUMP on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Principal-agent guidelines: Pick wisely when selecting your agent

By JORDAN SUNDELL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business and real-estate law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including Joint Marketing. His columns—focused mainly on real estate and small business—are published every other Tuesday.

Imagine that you want to sell your land and ask an acquaintance to find a buyer. Now assume that you want $200,000 for the land but your acquaintance signs a contract on your behalf with a buyer for $150,000. Are you stuck with the contract? Maybe.

To understand why, let's start with everyone's favorite topic: definitions. In our example, you are the principal and the acquaintance is your agent. You, as principal, have the legal power to do or decide something (here, to sell the land). Meanwhile, the acquaintance, as agent, has whatever authority you granted to them (here, to find a buyer).

But figuring out how much authority an agent has is not a matter of mathematical precision. That is because an agent has three sources of power: express, implied, and apparent.

Express authority is easy enough. It includes anything that the principal said the agent could do. Implied authority is broader. It includes any act reasonably necessary to fulfill the agent's express authority. And apparent authority is broader still. It covers any act done by an agent while dealing with a third party— assuming that the agent appears to be acting on the principal's behalf. In these cases, the agent may bind the principal even if the agent exceeded his authority.

In wielding this authority, an agent has many duties to the principal. Some of the key ones are: Obeying the principal's instructions; acting competently and carefully; not disclosing confidential information; and, above all, pursuing the principal's best interest—including when that interest conflicts with the agent's interest.

Revisiting our opening example: Why might the landowner have to honor the $150,000 sale price? Because the agent may have had apparent authority when the contract was signed.

Now let's sprinkle in some new facts: Assume that the acquaintance signed the contract because the buyer gave him a secret commission of $30,000. Did the acquaintance violate his duties as an agent? Of course. The acquaintance ignored the landowner's instructions to line his pockets at the expense of the landowner's interest.

If the landowner discovers the side deal, what can he do? Several things. For one, he can report the situation to the police because the agent has committed a crime. For another, he can file a lawsuit seeking the $30,000.

Unfortunately, proving a side deal existed is easier said than done. There's seldom a paper trail, and the acquaintance and buyer are unlikely to admit that something shady took place. And even if you can prove a side deal happened, in many situations, it's frequently hard to collect the debt.

What's a person to do? Three things: Pick trustworthy people, monitor them regularly, and give them no more authority than necessary. In short, follow the adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Take our land-transaction example. Was it smart for the landowner to use an acquaintance? It depends. What's the acquaintance's reputation? And how much does the acquaintance know about real estate? Too often landowners depend on unreliable people who have little-to-no experience with real estate.

But selling land is a big deal. For many people, it is the largest transaction they will ever do. If you are going to work with someone, make sure the person has an excellent reputation and significant real-estate experience. This is no time to cut corners.

This guideline extends to family too. Some family members don't know anything about real estate. Some cut secret deals or take the money and run. Either version could mess up the biggest deal of your life. So, choose wisely.

Another way to reduce your risk is to monitor your agent. Ask them questions, and encourage them to send you regular emails updating you of what is happening with the deal.

Finally, put the agent's authority in writing. If you want to be casual about this, an email will do. If you want to do a better job, put it in a signed letter. And if you want to do it right, put it into a signed and notarized power of attorney—and then record it at the Recorder's Office. This is no time to cut corners.

What should the email, letter, or power of attorney say? If you are selling the property, it should list your name, a brief description of the property (such as the size and location), and the precise things the agent may do on your behalf like negotiating the sale, signing the transfer documents, accepting the money, and so on. If the agent can approve the sale, spell out key terms in advance like minimum price. If the agent can receive the money, make sure the agent is receiving a check payable to you, not them.

If you are buying the property, the key terms and concerns look similar except that you may want to give the agent authority to work with CUC about transferring water and power from the previous owner to yourself.

In both cases, state an expiration date for the agent's authority. Generally, the expiration date should be for between six months and two years, but no more.

To sum up the column: Agents can be useful but they can also get you in trouble, so pick competent, trustworthy people, and then say what they can (and cannot do) for you in writing. Doing so sets clear expectations and limits the damage a wayward agent can do.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Biased much?

Every day, every week, two pages of Opinion that always bashes the U.S. government, President, or Republicans. Is it that difficult to find an opposing view? I'm not a Republican but it's obvious to me that there is very little effort in finding opposing opinions. Has anyone at the *Saipan Tribune* considered the good that the U.S. has done for the CNMI in the past six months and offered an opinion on that?

I also noticed that the Opinion section is always filled with opinions from someone in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Boston, or somewhere in California. These are the most uber-liberal cities in America. Has anyone thought about getting a normal American opinion from someone in Alaska, South Carolina, Kentucky, Hawaii, or here? Wow, there is a novel thought—let's get an opinion from normal people like the folks here on Saipan. An opinion from someone on Saipan would be a breath of fresh air.

I genuinely like your paper other than the Opinion page. I actually think it could be ok as well as long as all the bashing only made up 50 percent or one page vice both. It would be nice to see an opposing view or an opinion from someone local.

This is solely my opinion and in no way represents the opinion of those associated with or of the agency I work for.

Mica F. Cochran
U.S. Agency for Global Media
Site manager, Marianas
Robert E. Kamosa Transmitting Station

TRUMP

From Page 10

authorizations of pen registers (a wiretap, essentially, that monitors telephone and digital communications), 13 requests for information from foreign governments and interviews with 500 witnesses (which, notably, did not include the president).

If Barr's letter represents the opening round of a cage match between the Justice Department and Congress over the Mueller report, it's certainly not the end of Trump and his family's intersection with law enforcement and possible legal jeopardy. As many as 12 known investigations continue to target the president's financial, business and political dealings, including those overseen by several congressional committees as well as federal and state law enforcement and regulatory officials.

WITH

From Page 10

please come through, because the only option is a coup."

Trump, meanwhile, did all he could to discredit Mueller, dismissing the investigation as a witch hunt. The president's antics primarily discredited an American justice credo that all of us should be held accountable for our actions. Even presidents.

In our view the obstruction allegations always seemed shaky. Richard Nixon schemed in secret to escape the Watergate scandal; Trump took brazen, public actions suggesting he wanted to thwart the Russia investigation. Most egregiously, Trump fired James Comey, who had been in charge of the probe—and then said in a TV interview that Russia was on his mind when he did so.

Yet presidents can hire and fire their command staff, FBI directors included. Barr, in Sunday's letter, said he and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein concluded there isn't sufficient evidence to establish that Trump's defiance met the legal definition of obstruction. Democrats will profoundly disagree. Their presidential candidates will say much about Trump's actions, judgment and capacity to lead. They won't be wrong to criticize him.

Trump took office as an untested, undisciplined leader with an ego entirely too large to justify, given his deficiencies. He's had accomplishments as president but has made innumerable unforced errors. Much of the trouble brought on him by the Mueller investigation traces to his sloppy 2016 campaign and poor hiring instincts.

There's more trouble to come for Trump. Michael Cohen, his personal lawyer, is headed to prison. More investigations of Trump's business and other dealings swirl: Democrats can hope federal prosecutors in the Southern District of New York will take down Trump.

We anticipate reading Mueller's report, not just Barr's summary. For now, though, Trump is surviving the scandal that has dogged his presidency: A special counsel investigated whether a president of the United States connived with a foreign adversary to corrupt a national election. That allegation, we're now told, didn't prove out.

That should come as a relief to all Americans. Those still enraged—by Trump's volatile conduct or by the relentless attacks on him—then will rejoin their fierce political tribes.

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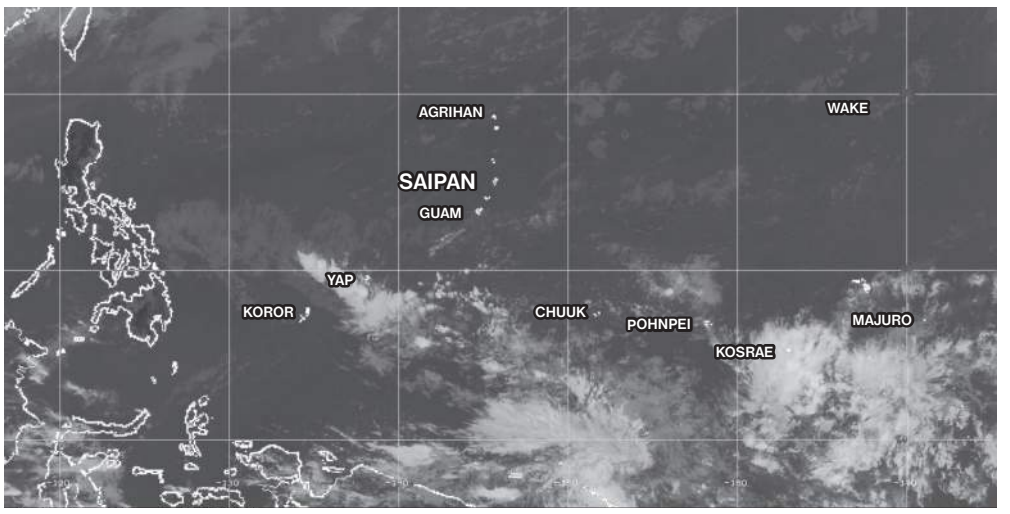
BORDERING FEAR!
BY JOE "SPACE INVADERS!" FOURNIER
U.S. SEC. OF DEFENSE JIM "MAD DOG" MATTIS EXPLAINS
STUNT? THE MILITARY DOESN'T DO STUNTS!
DEPLOYING 15,000 TROOPS TO AMERICA'S BORDER WITH MEXICO BEFORE AN ELECTION THAT WILL DECIDE WHETHER THE GOP DISMANTLES MEDICAID, MEDICARE, SOCIAL SECURITY, ALONG WITH OBAMACARE...
...ALL WHILE CONSIDERING ANOTHER TAX CUT FOR THE WEALTHY IS NOT, REPEAT, NOT A STUNT!
I MEAN, YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A MILITARY GENIUS TO KNOW...
...THAT'S A DIVERSIONARY TACTIC.
joe@joefournierstudios.com

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers
88° 77°	89° 77°	89° 77°	89° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:45 AM, MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The eroding shear line will keep isolated showers in the area for another day, but drier weather will return by Wednesday with only a slight chance of showers expected the remainder of the week. Moderate to fresh trade winds will continue for the week. A weak circulation that has been nearly stationary SW of Chuuk the past week is beginning to look less organized and models suggest that it will eventually open up into the near-equatorial trough. Another disturbance is expected to form south of Pohnpei or Kosrae late in the week. As it moves west within Micronesia, models show clouds and moisture spreading northward into the Marianas next weekend. GFS remains the more aggressive model in depicting a small circulation passing just south of the Marianas, but close enough to cause stronger winds and seas and increased rain. Because that model solution is such an outlier, have maintained a trade-wind flow across the region for that time frame, but indicated increased moisture.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Showers	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Showers	84° / 78°
Majuro	Showers	83° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Cloudy	73° / 64°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	70° / 36°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	77° / 72°
Honolulu	Sunny	83° / 66°
London	Mostly Sunny	57° / 39°
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 55°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 79°
Melbourne	Sunny	72° / 54°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	82° / 64°
New York	Sunny	47° / 32°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	63° / 55°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	55° / 36°
Busan	Windy	64° / 50°
Rome	Showers	61° / 46°
Salem	Showers	60° / 43°
San Francisco	Cloudy	59° / 52°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	57° / 37°
Tokyo	Sunny	64° / 55°
Washington, DC	Sunny	52° / 34°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
05:36 AM	LOW TIDE	0.93
10:50 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.81
6:10 PM	LOW TIDE	0.02
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:17 AM	6:28 PM
Wednesday	6:16 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:15 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:15 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:18 AM	11:30 PM
Wednesday	-	11:07 AM	-
Thursday	12:23 AM	11:56 PM	-
Friday	1:14 AM	12:47 PM	-
Saturday	2:03 AM	1:37 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 22, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

SKY801	4:50pm	7:40pm	Daily up to Mar 30

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:00pm	Daily via GUM
UA117/193 GUM-ROR	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via
UA105/193	6:25pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/1596:25pm		11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

SKY01K	10:00am	2:40pm	Daily up to Mar 30

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	00:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA192/174 GUM-ROR	9:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:50pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

UK PM May faces heavy pressure to step down to save Brexit

LONDON (AP)—Embattled Prime Minister Theresa May was scrambling Sunday to win over adversaries to her Brexit withdrawal plan as key Cabinet ministers denied media reports that they were plotting to oust her.

May spent the afternoon ensconced in a crisis meeting at her country residence Chequers with fellow Conservatives and outspoken Brexit advocates like Boris Johnson, Jacob Rees-Mogg and others who would prefer to leave the European Union without a divorce deal rather than delay Britain's departure from the bloc further.

Her office released a statement afterward giving no hint about whether she had gained any new backing. It said only that they discussed "whether there is sufficient support" to bring her Brexit divorce plan back to Parliament for a third vote.

The prime minister has found her authority weakened after a series of setbacks in Parliament and her inability to win meaningful concessions from EU leaders who refuse to sweeten the Brexit deal.

The Sunday Times claims that 11 Cabinet ministers plan to tell May to resign so a caretaker leader can be put in her place to kick start the stalled Brexit process. She faces growing pressure from within her own party either to resign or to set a date for stepping down as a way to build support for her Brexit plan.

The confrontation may come to a head at a Cabinet session expected Monday.

Under Conservative Party rules, May cannot face a formal leadership challenge from within her own party until December because she survived one three months ago. But she may be persuaded that her position is untenable if top Cabinet ministers and other senior party members desert her.

Despite headlines about a Cabinet coup, there was no indication from Downing Street on Sunday that a resignation was near. Two of the people mentioned as possible successors—Cabinet Office Minister David Lidington and Treasury chief Philip Hammond—expressed strong support for May.

Hammond said Sunday that senior party members plotting to oust May were being "self-indulgent." He said a change of leadership would not provide a solution to the U.K.'s political deadlock on Brexit.

"We've got to address the question of what type of Brexit is acceptable to Parliament, what type of way forward Parliament can agree on so that we can avoid what would be an economic catastrophe of a no-deal exit and also what would be a very big challenge to confidence in our political system if we didn't exit at all," Hammond said.

Lidington, mentioned as a possible caretaker prime minister should May be ousted, said Sunday that talk of a Cabinet revolt was far-fetched speculation. He said May is doing a "fantastic job" and that he has no desire to take her place.

Still, May thus far has been unable to generate enough support in Parliament for the deal her government and the EU reached late last year. Lawmakers voted down the Brexit plan twice, and May has raised the possibility of bringing it back a third time if enough legislators appear willing to switch their votes.

The Cabinet is focused on the best way to get May's withdrawal plan passed in the House of Commons, Lidington said.

The U.K.'s departure from the EU was set to take place on March 29, but the absence of an approved divorce agreement prompted May last week to ask the leaders of the 27 remaining EU nations for a postponement.

The leaders agreed to delay Brexit until May 22, on the eve of the EU Parliament elections, if the prime minister can persuade Parliament to endorse her twice-rejected agreement.

AP
A doll resembling British Prime Minister Theresa May stands among demonstrators during a Peoples Vote anti-Brexit march in London, Saturday, March 23, 2019.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

American Airlines extends 737 Max-related cancellations

NEW YORK (AP)—American Airlines is extending cancellations of flights through April 24 due to the grounding of Boeing 737 Max aircraft, as federal regulators continue to investigate two deadly crashes involving the plane model. Southwest Airlines is also continuing to make cancellations. American has 24 Boeing 737 Max aircraft in its fleet, and said Sunday that it will be canceling about 90 flights a day. Not every flight that was previously scheduled to be on a Max aircraft will be canceled, and some flights scheduled to fly on other aircraft types may ultimately be canceled. The airline said it will contact affected fliers directly. Southwest, which has 34 Max aircraft, is making cancellations five days in advance, with an average of 130 daily cancellations. On Saturday, it also began to ferry all its Max aircraft to a facility in Victorville, California, without passengers, to free up space at the airports where they had been parked. United Airlines, which has 14 Max aircraft, does not have any flights scheduled on the equipment through April 9. It doesn't expect any future cancellations as a result of the grounding of the planes, and it is using alternate aircraft to make up for their being grounded. Aviation authorities around the world grounded Boeing 737 Max aircraft earlier this month following deadly crashes involving the plane model in Ethiopia and off the coast of Indonesia, which occurred within five months of each other.

Average US price of gas jumps 16 cents per gallon, to $2.66

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average U.S. price of regular-grade gasoline shot up 16 cents a gallon (3.8 liters) over the past two weeks, to $2.66. Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey says the rise comes as supplies tighten while refineries undergo maintenance in advance of increased demand during the summer driving season. Lundberg says Sunday that the current retail price is the same as it was a year ago. The highest average price in the nation is $3.48 a gallon in the San Francisco Bay Area. The lowest average is $2.29 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The average price of diesel rose 3 cents over the past two weeks, to $3.08.

Crews rescue Minnesota restaurant diners after flooding

WAITE PARK, Minn. (AP)—Crews in central Minnesota had to rescue dozens of people stranded inside a restaurant after flash flooding. Waite Park Fire Chief Jim Aleshire says about 44 people were stuck inside Anton's restaurant when the Sauk River rose Saturday night. The Fire Department requested mutual aid from St. Joseph and St. Cloud. First responders used three boats and were able to get everyone safely out of the restaurant by about 9:30 p.m. One of the business's owners, Betzy Gaetz, was not in the restaurant, but tells the St. Cloud Times the flood happened so quickly people did not have time to move anything. Gaetz says the flooding happened while customers were having dinner. The property usually floods in the spring, but Gaetz says she has never seen anything like this.

Survey: Business economists see slowdown in growth this year

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's business economists foresee a sharp slowdown in U.S. economic growth over the next two years, in sharp contrast to the Trump administration's predictions that growth will accelerate this year and next.

That finding comes from the latest survey by the National Association for Business Economics being released Monday. Its economists collectively project that growth, as measured by the gross domestic product, will reach a modest 2.4 this year and just 2 percent in 2020. Among the key factors in their dimmer assessment are a global slowdown and the ongoing trade conflicts between the Trump administration and several major trading partners.

Still, the NABE economists say they think a recession remains unlikely any time soon.

For 2018, economic growth amounted to 2.9 percent, the government has estimated. The economy benefited last year from tax cuts and increased government spending, the gains from which are now thought to be fading. It's one reason why most economists foresee a more sluggish pace of growth.

The new NABE projections, from a panel of 55 professional forecasters, represent a significant drop from their previous forecast in December of 2.7 percent growth this year. And their estimate is much lower than the Trump's administration's new projection that GDP growth will remain above 3 percent this year and over the next six years.

But the administration is already projecting huge deficits above $1 trillion over the next four years. If growth falls short of its optimistic forecasts, those deficit figures could soar even higher and inhibit the economy's ability to accelerate.

The NABE forecast is in line with the updated outlook that the Federal Reserve released last week. The Fed projected that GDP growth would slow to 2.1 percent this year and 1.9 percent in 2020, having downgraded its previous estimates to take account of the global slump and other risks.

The NABE economists attributed their weaker outlook in part to a growing economic drag from President Donald Trump's trade policies. The import taxes that Trump has imposed on China and some other nations have prompted retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports.

"A majority of panelists sees external headwinds from trade policy and slower global growth as the primary downside risks to growth," said Gregory Daco, chief U.S. economist for Oxford Economics and the chair of the NABE survey panel.

The NABE said three-fourths of its forecasters had reduced their 2019 GDP growth estimates because of the likely consequences of the trade conflicts. Still, the NABE's panel put the likelihood that a recession will begin by the end of this year at around 20 percent and 35 percent by the end of 2020.

Nation

Trump declares victory now but legal perils far from over

NEW YORK (AP)—President Donald Trump may be reveling in what he sees as "complete and total exoneration" from special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, but his legal perils are far from over.

Federal and state investigators in New York are deep into investigations of their own into Trump and those in his orbit, probes that some observers have long viewed as every bit as menacing as Mueller's two-year look into possible collusion with Russia to influence the 2016 presidential election.

"They are very real and very significant," said Patrick J. Cotter, a former federal prosecutor in the Southern District of New York. "If you're Trump, this has got to feel, in some ways, like an even greater threat than the Russia probe."

Federal prosecutors in Manhattan are pursuing at least two known criminal inquiries, one focused into possible corruption in Trump's inaugural committee and another on the hush-money scandal that led his former lawyer, Michael Cohen, to plead guilty last year to campaign-finance violations.

The president also faces inquiries from New York's attorney general, Letitia James, who recently opened a civil inquiry into Cohen's claims that Trump exaggerated his wealth when seeking loans for real estate projects and in a failed bid to buy the NFL's Buffalo Bills. Meanwhile, a state regulatory entity is looking into whether Trump gave false information to insurance companies.

Cohen told Congress in testimony last month he is in "constant contact" with prosecutors involving ongoing investigations.

Trump has dismissed the New York investigations as politically motivated harassment, a theme he and his supporters are likely to keep hammering in the wake of the Mueller findings.

The Justice Department declared Sunday that Mueller's two-year investigation found no evidence that Trump's campaign "conspired or coordinated" with Russia to influence the 2016 presidential election, and did not come to a definitive answer on whether Trump obstructed justice.

Reacting to the findings in Florida on Sunday, Trump called the Mueller probe "an illegal takedown that failed."

The U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan declined to comment on the New York probes but has told a federal judge it is still investigating campaign-finance violations committed when Cohen helped orchestrate six-figure payments to a porn actress, Stormy Daniels, and a former Playboy model, Karen McDougal, to keep them quiet during the campaign about alleged affairs with Trump. Cohen says Trump ordered the payments and later reimbursed him for his efforts. So far, nobody besides Cohen has been charged.

Political observers have continued to speculate that Cohen, who is scheduled to report to prison in May, might secretly be providing investigators with additional information.

"If you've got Michael Cohen, the president's former lawyer, as a tour guide, that means you could go anywhere," former Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey told MSNBC recently.

AP

President Donald Trump speaks to media before boarding Air Force One, Sunday, March 24, 2019, at Palm Beach International Airport, in West Palm Beach, Fla., en route to Washington.

'Medicare for All' means big shifts on immigration, abortion

WASHINGTON (AP)—The "Medicare for All" legislation that's become a clarion call for progressives has two little-noticed provisions that could make it even more politically perilous for 2020 Democratic presidential candidates.

The legislation from White House hopeful Sen. Bernie Sanders, along with a similar measure in the House, lifts curbs on government health insurance for people in the country illegally and revokes longstanding restrictions on taxpayer-funded abortions.

Embracing the changes will give Democratic candidates a boost with the party's liberal base in a wide-open primary fight. But such divisive issues could complicate things for an eventual nominee seeking voters in the middle. President Donald Trump has denounced Medicare for All as "socialism," and immigration and abortion are issues that energize Trump's political base.

"It seems like the writers of the bills are just trying to pander to the Democratic activists," said Janet Robert, president of the anti-abortion advocacy group Democrats for Life. "You don't see this coming from Democrats who run in communities in more rural areas. You don't just need votes from Democratic activists to win the election."

But Kristin Lynch, a spokeswoman for 2020 Democratic hopeful Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey, said the senator believes "it is imperative that all residents of the U.S. have affordable, quality health coverage," including "comprehensive reproductive care." Booker is a co-sponsor of Sanders' bill.

Other Democratic senators running for president have also signed on to their Vermont colleague's legislation: Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Kamala Harris of California, and Elizabeth Warren of New York. Their offices did not respond to requests for comment.

Beyond the Senate, a spokeswoman for 2020 Democratic candidate Pete Buttigieg said he supports lifting current restrictions on taxpayer funding for abortion. Buttigieg, mayor of South Bend, Indiana, generally supports covering immigrants even if they are in the country illegally, but she said he'd have to see specifics.

Neither Sanders' bill nor the similar measure in the House has a realistic chance of becoming law, with the Senate controlled by Republicans and Trump in the White House. But the House bill will get committee hearings this year, and supporters are pressing for votes.

So far, the debate has centered on the bill's promise of quality care with no premiums or copays versus its potentially huge costs. Adding immigration and abortion take it in a different direction.

The words "immigrant" and "abortion" don't appear in Sanders' bill, which is expected to be re-introduced soon, or in House legislation from Democratic Reps. Pramila Jayapal of Washington and Debbie Dingell of Michigan. Instead the legislation refers to U.S. "resident" and "comprehensive reproductive" care.

Both Medicare for All bills would extend coverage to every U.S. resident, delegating the health and human services secretary to define residency. The House bill also prohibits the government from denying benefits because of "citizenship status." Both bills call for steps to deter immigration for the "sole purpose" of getting free medical care.

That's different from former President Barack Obama's health care law, which limited benefits to U.S. citizens or nationals, and "lawfully present" immigrants. The nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute estimates there are about 6 million people in the U.S. without legal permission who are uninsured.

"Everyone, no matter who they are or what services they need, must have access to quality affordable health care," said Dingell. She said she's looking to start "conversations across the country to build the consensus that will ensure every person gets the health care coverage they need."

ACROSS THE NATION

Houston police sergeant charged in fatal shooting of wife

HOUSTON (AP)—Investigators say a Houston police officer has been charged with murder in the fatal shooting of his librarian wife. Pearland police said in a statement that the body of 52-year-old Belinda Hernandez was located Saturday by a relative at her home in the Houston suburb. Her husband, 56-year-old Sgt. Hilario Hernandez, was arrested later that day some 230 miles (370 kilometers) away in Kingsville, Texas. Police say the victim was a librarian at Shadycrest Elementary School. Pearland police Officer Jason Wells said Sunday that Hernandez is being returned to Brazoria County from Kleberg County, where he was arrested. Wells was unable to provide information on bond or an attorney representing Hernandez. Kleberg County sheriff's officials didn't immediately return messages Sunday. Houston police also didn't immediately return a message for comment.

1 killed, 3 injured after street racing crash in Albuquerque

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Authorities say street racers in southwest Albuquerque have killed a pedestrian and crashed a vehicle into an apartment building. Police say it appears a woman was crossing a street Saturday night when she was fatally struck by one of the vehicles racing down a street. They say one of the vehicles then crashed into an apartment building. Police say three of the four people in the car that crashed were taken to a hospital where they were listed in critical condition. They say the driver is in police custody and the other car involved in the race didn't stop. The names of the dead woman, the three injured people and the arrested driver haven't been released yet by police.

Man arrested in subway attack says woman threatened him

NEW YORK (AP)—The man facing an assault charge in connection to an attack on a homeless woman on a New York City subway train claims she threatened him with a knife. The New York Post reports the court-appointed attorney for Marc Gomez made the claims at the 36-year-old's arraignment early Sunday in Bronx Criminal Court. Gomez, of Yonkers, New York, had been arrested Saturday in connection to the March 10 encounter, which was caught on video. The clip showed the 78-year-old woman being punched and kicked on a Bronx train around 3 a.m. She was treated for cuts, bleeding and swelling. Attorney Steven Mechanic says his client insists she threatened to stab him, and displayed some kind of sharp instrument. Gomez was ordered to be held.

Asia

NZ to probe role of spies, guns in mosque attacks

AP
New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern addresses a press conference in Wellington, New Zealand Monday, March 25, 2019.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand will hold a top-level inquiry into the massacre of 50 people at two Christchurch mosques that will examine what roles guns, social media and spy agencies played preceding the attacks.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced Monday that it would hold a Royal Commission of Inquiry, the country's highest form of investigation.

"While New Zealanders and Muslim communities around the world are both grieving and showing compassion for one another, they are also quite rightly asking questions on how this terror attack was able to happen here," Ardern said.

Her Cabinet had previously agreed on holding an inquiry, but had not decided what level of investigation. She said royal commissions are usually reserved for matters of the gravest public importance and that was clearly appropriate in this case. She said the exact terms of the inquiry, including its duration, would be finalized over the next two weeks.

"In short, the inquiry will look at what could have or should have been done to prevent the attack," Ardern said. "It will inquire into the individual and his activities before the terrorist attack, including, of course, a look at agencies."

She said those agencies will include the country's domestic spy agency, the Security Intelligence Service, and its international counterpart, the Government Communications Security Bureau. Other agencies to be looked at include police, customs and immigration.

A royal commission is run independently from the government and is chaired by a high-court judge. It has the power to compel witnesses to testify and organizations to hand over documents. But it remains up to the courts or government to follow through on any recommendations or findings.

Australian white supremacist Brenton Tarrant, 28, has been charged with murder for the March 15 attacks. He is next due in court on April 5.

Some people have already criticized New Zealand's intelligence agencies for focusing too much on perceived threats from Muslim extremists and left-wing radicals while not looking deeply enough into possible threats from nationalist groups and white supremacists.

"There will be a focus on whether our intelligence community was concentrating its resources appropriately and whether there were any reports that could, or should, have alerted them to this attack," Ardern said. "It is important that no stone is left unturned to get to the bottom of how this act of terrorism occurred and what, if any, opportunities we had to stop it."

On Thursday, less than a week after the attack, the government announced it was rushing through new laws to ban "military-style" semi-automatic firearms and high-capacity magazines like those used by the gunman.

Ardern said Monday that it was unacceptable that a disturbing video of the attack taken by the gunman and livestreamed on Facebook continued to be available on some social media platforms. She said she wanted assurances from social media leaders that something similar would never happen again.

New Zealand has previously held royal commissions into the 2010 Pike River coal mine disaster and building failures during the 2011 Christchurch earthquake. It is currently holding an inquiry into historical abuse in state care.

Cyclone lashing northwest Australia weakens

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A slow-moving cyclone that lashed northwest Australia was weakening on Monday.

The Bureau of Meteorology said Cyclone Veronica had weakened from a Category 3 storm, on a scale in which 5 is the strongest, to a Category 2, with sustained winds near its center of 100 kilometers (62 miles) per hour and wind gusts of up to 140 kph (87 mph).

The storm was expected to continue to track west away from the coast of the sparsely populated Pilbara region of Western Australia state and weaken below cyclone strength late Monday, the bureau said.

There have been no reports of injuries or major structural damage from two major cyclones that hit the Australian coast over the weekend. But damage assessment had only just begun on Monday.

About 60,000 people live in the area most affected by Veronica, which crossed the Pilbara coast on Sunday. The iron ore mining region is said to be generally well prepared for cyclones that lash its coast frequently.

On Saturday, Category 4 Cyclone Trevor hit a remote part of the Northern Territory coast, about 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) to the east of the Pilbara region.

Trevor was downgraded on Sunday to a tropical low pressure system as it moved inland. The more than 2,000 people evacuated from Northern Territory coastal areas in its path have begun moving back home.

A red alert that warns residents to find shelter and brace for destructive winds remained in place in parts of the Pilbara. But that warning is expected to be lifted on Monday.

Roof and tree damage has been reported at towns in the Pilbara region.

Cyclones are frequent in Australia's tropical north but rarely claim lives. Still, two large storms such as Trevor and Veronica hitting on successive days is rare.

Military-backed party leads Thailand's post-coup election

BANGKOK (AP)—A military-backed party has taken the lead in Thailand's first election since a 2014 coup, preliminary results showed, suggesting junta leader and Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha could stay in power, helped by an electoral system tilted in the military's favor.

With 93 percent of votes counted late Sunday, the Palang Pracharat party was first with nearly 7.6 million votes, according to the Election Commission. Its vote total falls short of the numbers needed for an outright majority in parliament. Pheu Thai, which was the governing party ousted by the coup, was next with 7.1 million votes.

The country likely faces several weeks of bargaining among political parties before a potentially unstable coalition government is formed in May or June. Thais voted for a 500-member parliament, which along with a 250-member junta-appointed Senate will decide the next prime minister.

A new party, Future Forward, which was anti-junta and popular with young voters, scooped up 5.2 million votes. But voters deserted the Democrat Party, the country's oldest political party, in its Bangkok and southern strongholds. Its leader, former Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, resigned. Another party, Phumjai Thai, which experts say could support the junta, picked up 3.2 million votes.

"It looks unlikely that a sizeable enough anti-junta majority will form in the House to put pressure on the military to back away," said Peter Mumford, an analyst at Eurasia Group, which advises international companies on political risks.

That combined with the role of junta-appointed senators in helping to pick the next prime minister means Prayuth "remains in pole position for now," he said in a post-election analysis.

"There will be uncertainty created by post-election coalition negotiations, potential recounts, disqualifications and constituency race reruns, and concerns over the legitimacy of the election," Mumford said.

The election was the latest chapter in a nearly two-decade struggle pitching conservative forces including the military against the political machine of Thaksin Shinawatra, a tycoon who upended tradition-bound Thailand's politics with a populist political revolution.

Thaksin was ousted as prime minister in a 2006 military coup and now lives in exile abroad to avoid a prison term, but parties allied with him have won every election since 2001. His sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, who led the Pheu Thai government that was ousted in 2014, also fled the country after what supporters said was a politically motivated prosecution.

The blunt-speaking Prayuth, who as army chief led the 2014 coup, was hoping to extend his hold on power after engineering a new political system that aims to stifle the influence of big political parties not aligned with Palang Pracharat and the military.

Nearly 6 percent of votes were disqualified, according to the Election Commission, which said it would provide an update on counting Monday.

Pheu Thai's secretary general, Phumtham Wechayachai, said the party was waiting for official results but believes there were irregularities. The party wants to inspect disqualified and spoiled ballots, he said.

"Even the reported numbers from the Election Commission and each media outlet are different. We have our own number too. The Election Commission report even paused for a while. It will be clearer once the official result is announced," Phumtham said.

About 51 million Thais were eligible to vote. Leaders of political parties opposed to military rule urged a high turnout as the only way to derail Prayuth's plans, but the 66 percent turnout fell short of their hopes.

A statement from Prayuth's office said he thanked people for voting and officials for holding the election in an orderly fashion.

"What is now interesting is how Palang Pracharat can bring together a coalition," said Kevin Hewison, a Thai politics expert who is a University of North Carolina emeritus professor.

"It looks like it needs at least two other parties but will probably cobble together more than that in the hope of creating a more stable government," he said.

World

Gaza rocket strikes home in central Israel, 7 wounded

KFAR SABA, Israel (AP)—An early morning rocket from the Gaza Strip struck a house in central Israel on Monday, wounding seven people, an Israeli rescue service said, an attack that could set off another round of violence shortly before the Israeli election.

The sounds of air raid sirens woke up the residents of the residential Sharon area, northeast of Tel Aviv, sending them scurrying to bomb shelters. A strong sound of an explosion followed.

The Israeli military said it identified a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip. Israeli police said the rocket hit a residential home in the community of Mishmeret, north of the city of Kfar Saba, setting off a fire and destroying the house.

The Magen David Adom rescue service said it was treating seven people, including two women who were moderately wounded. The others, including two children and an infant, had minor wounds.

The attack comes 10 days after rockets were fired toward Israel's densely populated commercial capital of Tel Aviv. The Israeli military at the time struck back in Gaza and the sides appeared to be hurtling toward another confrontation. But Gaza's Hamas leaders said the rocket was fired accidently and calm was quickly restored.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility to Monday's attack, but it would seem to be much harder to dismiss the latest incident as another misfire.

Gaza is controlled by Hamas, an Islamic militant group that seeks Israel's destruction and possesses a large arsenal of rockets and missiles capable of striking deep inside Israel. The territory is home to other militant groups, including Islamic Jihad, an Iranian-backed armed organization that also has a formidable rocket arsenal.

Israel holds Hamas responsible for all fire coming out of the coastal territory.

Israel and Hamas are bitter enemies and have fought three wars since the militant group seized power in the strip in 2007. Smaller flare-ups have occurred sporadically since Israel and Hamas fought their last war in 2014.

The outburst comes at a sensitive time for both sides. Israel is holding national elections in 15 days. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is locked in a tight fight for reelection and could face heavy criticism from his opponents if he is seen as ineffective against the militants.

Netanyahu is currently in Washington, set to meet later in the day with President Donald Trump.

His chief opponent, Benny Gantz, called on him to return home immediately to deal with the crisis.

"The reality in which Hamas turned Israel into a hostage is unprecedented and unfathomable," he wrote on Twitter. "Netanyahu has to pack up now and return to Israel to handle this serious escalation."

In Gaza, Hamas has come under rare public criticism for the harsh conditions in the territory. An Israel-Egyptian blockade, combined with sanctions by the rival Palestinian Authority and mismanagement by the Hamas government have fueled an economic crisis in the territory. Residents have little desire for another war with Israel.

A house lies in ruins after being hit by a rocket in Mishmeret, central Israel, Monday, March 25, 2019. AP

Kenyan who gave earnings to poor wins $1M teacher prize

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—A Kenyan teacher from a remote village who gave away most of his earnings to the poor won a $1 million prize on Sunday for his work teaching in a government-run school that has just one computer and shoddy Internet access.

The annual Global Teacher Prize was awarded to Peter Tabichi in the opulent Atlantis Hotel in Dubai in a ceremony hosted by actor Hugh Jackman.

Tabichi said the farthest he'd traveled before this was to Uganda. Coming to Dubai marked his first time on an airplane.

"I feel great. I can't believe it. I feel so happy to be among the best teachers in the world, being the best in the world," he told The Associated Press after his win.

Tabichi teaches science to high schoolers in the semi-arid village of Pwani where almost a third of children are orphans or have only one parent. Drought and famine are common.

He said the school has no library and no laboratory. He plans to use the million dollars from his win to improve the school and feed the poor.

Despite the obstacles Tabichi's students face, he's credited with helping many stay in school, qualify for international competitions in science and engineering and go on to college.

"At times, whenever I reflect on the challenges they face, I shed tears," he said of his students, adding that his win will help give them confidence.

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta said in a statement that Tabichi's story "is the story of Africa" and of hope for future generations.

As a member of the Roman Catholic brotherhood, Tabichi wore a plain floor-length brown robe to receive the award presented by Dubai's Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

The prize is awarded by the Varkey Foundation, whose founder, Sunny Varkey, established the for-profit GEMS Education company that runs 55 schools in the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Qatar.

In his acceptance speech, Tabichi said his mother died when he was just 11 years old, leaving his father, a primary school teacher, with the job of raising him and his siblings alone.

Tabichi thanked his father for instilling Christian values in him, then pointed to his father in the audience, invited him up on stage and handed him the award to hold as the room erupted in applause and cheers.

"I found tonight to be incredibly emotional, very moving," Jackman told the AP after hosting the ceremony and performing musical numbers from his film The Greatest Showman.

"It was a great honor, a thrill to be here and I just thought the whole evening was just filled with a really pure spirit," he added.

Now in its fifth year, the prize is the largest of its kind. It's quickly become one of the most coveted and prestigious for teachers. Tabichi selected out of out 10,000 applicants.

The winner is selected by committees comprised of teachers, journalists, officials, entrepreneurs, business leaders and scientists.

Last year, a British art teacher was awarded for her work in one of the most ethnically diverse places in the country. Her work was credited with helping students feel welcome and safe in a borough with high murder rates.

WORLD BRIEFS

Italy: Infant dies after parents circumcise him at home

ROME (AP)—An infant boy in Italy has died as the result of a circumcision performed by his parents at home, according to Italian media reports on Sunday. The ANSA news agency reported that the 5-month-old baby was brought to a hospital in Bologna by helicopter in cardiac arrest on Friday afternoon and died that night. The prosecutor's office in the northern province of Reggio Emilia has opened a manslaughter investigation, and the infant will undergo an autopsy. The tragedy follows a botched home circumcision of a 2-year-old who died of severe blood loss in December in Rome. In that case, his twin brother nearly died, too, but survived following intensive care treatment. Circumcision is not practiced among Italy's Roman Catholic majority. Many immigrants in Italy are Muslim and practice circumcision for cultural and religious reasons, but sometimes have trouble accessing the practice in hospitals.

France investigates after older protester is injured in Nice

NICE, France (AP)—French authorities are investigating the case of an older female protester who suffered head injuries when police charged people defying a ban on yellow vest protests in Nice. The woman was waving a rainbow flag marked "Peace" and holding a yellow vest when riot police carrying shields suddenly pushed toward the protesters Saturday. An Associated Press reporter saw her fall to the pavement, blood spilling from her head. A city official identified her as 73-year-old anti-globalization activist Genevieve Legay. The official said Sunday that she is in intensive care, and cited the Nice prosecutor as saying an investigation was opened. The official was not authorized to be publicly named. French authorities banned protests in several areas Saturday to prevent a repeat of that rioting that scarred Paris a week ago at yellow vest protests. Nice was under extra security because the city was preparing for the arrival of Chinese President Xi Jinping. The 4-month-old movement drew bigger crowds Saturday than in recent weeks, despite heavy security and even though last weekend's violence dented overall support for the cause. The protesters want more help for struggling French workers and retirees and say President Emmanuel Macron favors the elite.

Moroccan teachers protest low wages, temporary contracts

RABAT, Morocco (AP)—Several thousand Moroccan teachers have staged a protest in the capital Rabat, in the latest outbreak of anger at low-wage, temporary teaching contracts that do not cover health care or provide for pensions. Sunday's march came the day after police used water cannon to disperse teachers trying to sleep outside in protest. The police violence heightened the teachers' anger after weeks of demonstrations. Protesters marched Sunday across the streets of Rabat carrying posters demanding respect for their profession and higher wages. It was part of a wave of protests by teachers from around the country, using Rabat as a gathering point to call out excessive use of temporary contracts without job protections.

Focus

Mozambican families hunt for loved ones separated by cyclone

Relatives and friends watch as a boat arrives with people rescued from flooded areas to Buzi district, 200 kilometers (120 miles) outside Beira, Mozambique, on Saturday, March 23, 2019. A second week has begun with efforts to find and help some tens of thousands of people in devastated parts of southern Africa, with some hundreds dead and an unknown number of people still missing. AP

By CARA ANNA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUZI, Mozambique (AP)—The young mother huddled on a wooden boat clutching her 2-year-old daughter, headed for the unknown: The flooded town of Buzi, which thousands have fled with little but the clothes on their backs.

Fishermen's boats have been ferrying out Buzi's displaced, sometimes scores of people crammed into a single vessel. But Veronica Fatia was going against the tide, up waters that only recently carried corpses to the sea. She was looking for her mother, hoping she was still alive.

Ten days after the fierce rains and winds roared in, the death toll stood at more than 750 in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi—a count that was certain to rise. Thousands of families swept apart by the storm were now seeking to reunite.

After a three-hour journey Fatia stepped carefully out of the boat and walked into the remains of Buzi, a once bustling riverside city of 200,000 now reduced to homelessness and despair.

She passed the shuttered Jesus Saves Bank and a nearby three-story building where residents clustered on the rooftop in search of a signal for their cellphones. She passed people living in the open along the sandy main road. Some were cooking, others building crude shelters. A young boy read a textbook. Her mother might be at the school, Fatia thought.

A cry went up as she approached the building and people came running.

"Mama!" she shouted as she caught sight of her mother. They embraced on a concrete walkway now filled with cooking fires and small children, one nodding off beside a pile of warm ashes.

"My home is gone, but I'm still happy because I can see my family," Fatia said.

Her mother, Maria Antonio, said she last saw her daughter two days before the storm. "I didn't know anything about her," she said. "I'm very happy to see her."

But the fate of her other daughter, in Quelimane further north, remains unknown.

It is a common heartbreak for thousands of families in central Mozambique, who have no way to learn about missing loved ones as destroyed communications networks struggle to return. People are desperately searching for family members separated by the flooding, destruction and death. Many will not be as lucky as Fatia.

The fishing boats between Buzi and the cyclone-shattered port city of Beira about 125 miles (200 kilometers) away are now a lifeline carrying survivors and essential supplies, braving bursts of rain, rolling waves and the ever-pervasive stench of death. Near Buzi, a dog's carcass hung from the branches of a tree.

Cut off from the world, people can easily panic. One member of the Mozambican Red Cross, Assane Paul, tried to calm a knot of people in Buzi who had heard a rumor that another cyclone was on the way.

Others tried to adapt however they could, from the Bible reader on the rooftop who blamed the cyclone on people's sins to the man walking down the road in soaking wet trousers. They were the only clothes he had, he explained. It was very much wash and wear.

Many people were still on the move. Dozens waited at Buzi's small pier for the fishermen's boats to pull up, bags of belongings at their feet and concern on their faces. Others simply watched for news.

At the other end of the journey, the beach in Beira, children and barefoot women were carried off a fishing boat and gathered together by aid workers in the rain. Some looked lost. Few carried much. One small girl stood alone, hugging herself, her eyes wide and pleading.

"I hid in the mosque," said 12-year-old Ramadan Gulam. "I was there for a week." He had come from Buzi with nothing but a bag of clothes and his brothers. "My father said to go because the floods would come again. ... I don't know what to do now."

Christina Machado came with her two children and a bandage on her ankle. It was cut by a tin roof during the cyclone, she said. It was treated just yesterday.

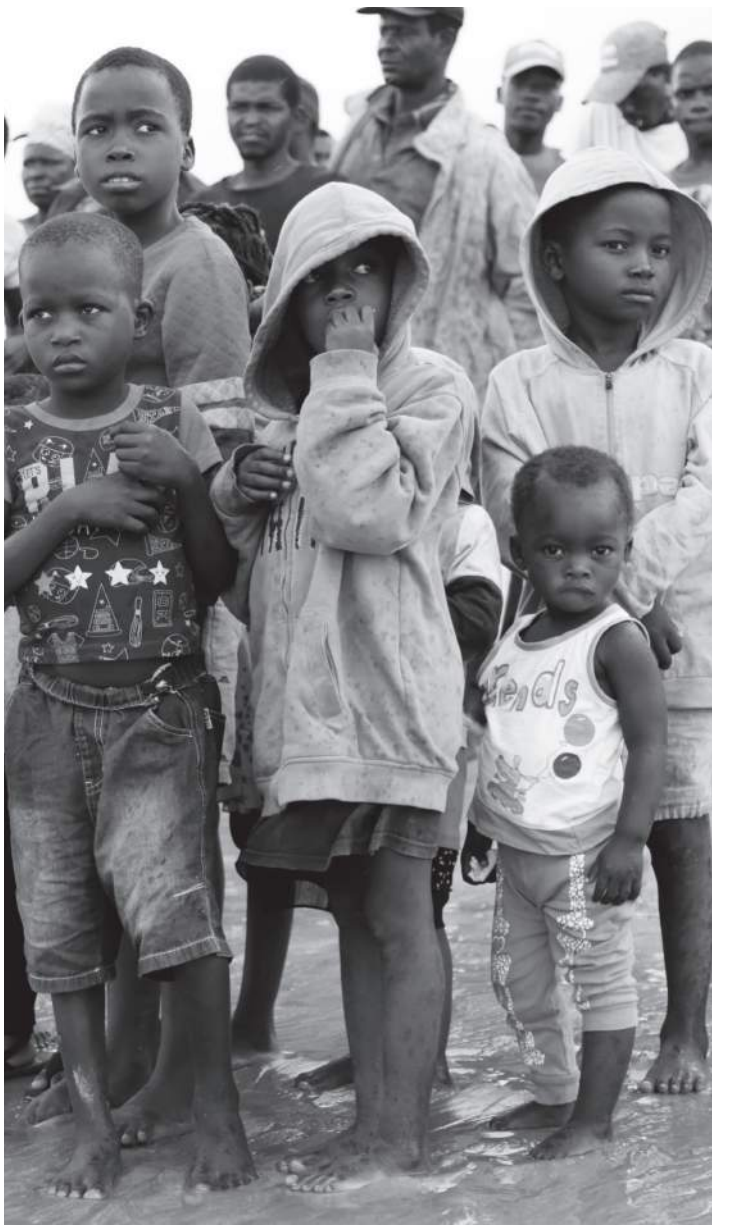
"I'm looking for my husband," she said. He had been working in Beira for two months. She didn't know where she would be taken next.

Francisco Mambonda spent about a week on a rooftop with nothing to eat. He and his wife and sons drank muddy water to survive.

Barefoot, shivering and in tattered shorts, he added another plea to the growing chorus: "I don't know what to do now."

Still, there was a ray of hope for emergency crews.

As night fell and one wooden boat from Buzi approached the flickering, generator-lit Beira skyline, another passed in the dusk. It carried soldiers to their duties. Some raised their guns and cheered.



Children wait as their parents disembark from a boat after being rescued from a flooded area of Buzi district, 200 kilometers (120 miles) outside Beira, Mozambique, on Saturday, March 23, 2019. A second week has begun of efforts to find and help tens of thousands of people after Cyclone Idai devastated a large swath of Mozambique. AP

Overdrive

Beefy 2019 Nissan Titan XD Pro-4X

designed for the highway or the trail

By G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

TNS
The 2019 Nissan Titan Pro-4X.

The first version of the new generation of Nissan's full-size Titan pickup arrived for 2016, much bigger and bolder than its predecessor – and sporting a whopper of a Cummins diesel engine, a first for the Titan.

A few months later, a smaller, lighter version of the new Titan arrived, with a choice of V-6 or V-8 gasoline engines, using a different chassis that's 14.7 inches shorter than that of the XD. Both the XD and the smaller Titan half-ton (1500) models come in three configurations: Single Cab, King Cab and Crew Cab.

Now for 2019, the beefy XD – the only heavy-duty pickup offered by a non-Detroit automaker — has a starting price of $32,890 (plus $1,395 freight) for the base Single Cab model with rear-wheel drive and a 5.6-liter gasoline V-8 engine, or $38,520 for the same model with the 5.0-liter Cummins diesel.

King Cab models start at $34,890 with the gas V-8 or $41,540 with the diesel, while Crew Cab versions begin at $38,170 with the gas engine or $43,510 with the diesel. Four-wheel drive is available at all levels, but is standard on the Pro-4X off-road version, which we tested for this report. The Pro-4X is available in King and Crew cab only.

The Pro-4X line begins at $47,110 for the King Cab gasoline model or $52,249 with the diesel, while Crew Cab gasoline models start at $49,390 and diesels at $54,730.

The 2019 Titan XD tops out at $65,310 for the fanciest and best-equipped version, the Platinum four-wheel drive with the diesel.

Platinum models come with lots of bling, including a premium leather interior with contrast stitching; and exterior chrome to give it an upscale look similar to the Ford F-series King Ranch, Chevrolet Silverado High Country and GMC Sierra Denali models.

New for 2019 in the XD is a seven-inch touch-screen audio/IT display with NissanConnect, featuring Apple CarPlay and Android Auto now standard on all models, Nissan says. Payload has been increased to a maximum of 2,990 pounds

Also new is a Fender Premium Audio System, which is included on Crew Cab SL and Platinum trim levels and optional on the Pro-4X Crew Cab and King Cab. The system has a 485-watt, nine-channel amplifier, and 12 speakers. It was included on our tester as part of the Pro-4X Utility Package ($1,445), which also brought the Utili-track cargo tiedown system, front and rear sonar parking aids, tailgate-area lighting, power-sliding rear window with defroster, electronic-locking tailgate, rear utility bed step, and under-rail LED cargo-bed lighting.

Other XD changes for 2019 include the Rear Door Alert system, which reminds drivers to check the back seat after the vehicle is parked, now standard on all King Cab and Crew Cab models; an additional USB media port (two total); two illuminated USB-A charge ports added to Pro-4X, SL and Platinum grades; a new body-color outer grille with gloss metallic black inner trim for the SV model (replaces the previous chrome grille trim) and an optional gooseneck trailer hitch system ($280, included on our tester).

There is also a larger DEF tank for the diesel engine, along with two new exterior paint colors: Midnight Pine Metallic (included on our tester) and Moab Sunset Metallic. Our tester also had the Monochrome Paint Package (no extra charge), which added body-color bumpers and over-fenders. Our vehicle's interior was black.

As for the diesel engine, it's a Cummins 5.0-liter turbocharged V-8, which packs 310 horsepower and a quite impressive 555 foot-pounds of torque. That gives the Titan XD a maximum trailer-towing weight of 12,200 pounds with rear-wheel drive, or 11,170 pounds with the four-wheel drive of our Pro-4X tester.

The XD is 18.2 inches longer than the previous-generation Titan Crew Cab, and about 1,800 pounds heavier.

Nissan says the XD is somewhere between the standard light-duty (half-ton) pickup class – such as the Silverado 1500 and F-150 – and the heavy-duty models (three-quarter-ton) such as the F-250/350, Ram 2500/3500 and Silverado 2500.

But Nissan believes that having two sizes of big pickups, even if the bigger one isn't quite in the HD class, will allow it to reach 85 percent of the pickup consumer market. Toyota does not yet have such a two-model strategy for its full-size Tundra.

Driving this behemoth around felt like I was in one of the Silverado or F-series heavy duty trucks. Ram's 1500 has been bigger than the others in the light-duty segment for some time, so the Titan XD feels more like a Ram 1500 than it does a Silverado 1500 or F-150.

As a longtime owner of the previous-generation Titan four-wheel-drive Crew Cab model, I can tell you this truck is nothing like the first generation, which was one of my favorite personal pickups ever, especially for the off-road exploring that has long been my passion.

It has shift-on-the-fly four-wheel drive with low-range gearing, Hill Start and Hill Descent assist, an electronic locking rear differential, and 18-inch alloy wheels with dark paint finish. A full-size spare tire is included – a must for trail driving.

The Titan XD should please consumers who crave beefy pickups, and the 5.0-liter Cummins engine will satisfy most everyone's power needs. Of course, keep in mind that this is still not an F-series Super Duty, Ram HD or Silverado HD, so it doesn't have quite the trailer-towing capabilities some of those three-quarter-ton trucks can offer with their diesels.

Negotiating tight shopping center parking lots and downtown parking spaces is more challenging in the XD than in the previous-generation Titan, and the turning radius is a bit wider.

But other than having to negotiate tight parking spots because of its larger size, this truck was fun to drive, and quite powerful. It can get up to speed and beyond very quickly.

The engine and the six-speed Aisin automatic transmission work smoothly together for the most part, but there were some shifts that seemed slightly out of sync. And sometimes the diesel engine got a bit noisy inside the cab – especially when the transmission seemed to hold a bit too long in a lower gear during hard acceleration. Most people won't care about that noise, but my front-seat passenger occasionally found it annoying.

The interior of this truck is designed to feel more like that of a luxury sedan, with very comfortable bucket seats up front, and a quite roomy rear bench seat that genuinely gave three adults plenty of leg, knee and headroom. The roof is so high that you can even wear a cowboy hat while you're driving the Titan XD, so that's certainly a plus in Texas.

Our tester came with the Pro-4X Convenience Package ($3,545), which added leather seats with contrast stitching and Pro-4X embroidery; a four-way power-adjustable front passenger seat (to go with the standard eight-way power driver's seat); heated front and rear seats; power/heated tilt/telescopic leather steering wheel with contrast stitching; memory for the driver's seat, outside mirrors and steering-wheel position; a compass on the navigation display; remote engine start; auto-dimming outside mirrors with (annoying) automatic reverse tilt-down; advanced NissanConnect services; and auto-dimming rearview mirror with universal garage/gate opener.

A Premium Package ($1,545), on our Titan XD, brought ventilated driver and passenger seats, Nissan's Intelligent Around View Monitor, and the Titan cargo box.

Front and rear are Nissan's NASA-inspired Zero Gravity seats, designed to be more ergonomic than standard seats, allowing for a comfortable ride, especially on long trips.

The large center console can serve as a mobile workstation. With the new Titan design, the shifter was moved to the steering column to free up storage space in the console, which includes two decent cupholders.

We had both a rearview camera and the Around View monitor showing up in the large color dash screen that also served the navigation and audio systems. With a truck this size, the Around View monitor is a great help when backing up in a crowded parking lot or while trying to line the vehicle up with a trailer.

No EPA fuel-economy estimates are available for the Titan XD, as it's exempt from the rules because of its size. But we averaged just under 18 mpg during our weeklong test, which was about two-thirds highway driving.

Total sticker price for our test vehicle was $62,590, including freight and options.

NUTS & BOLTS

2019 Nissan Titan XD Crew Cab Pro-4X Diesel

- **The package**: Five-passenger, four-door, four-wheel-drive, Cummins V-8 turbo-diesel powered, heavy-duty pickup truck.
- **Highlights**: This is Nissan's full-size pickup with special off-road features, designed to compete with Ford F-series Super Duty and GM's heavy-duty diesel-powered large trucks. It comes with a powerful Cummins V-8 diesel engine, King or Crew cab body with four doors, and a long list of standard or optional equipment.
- **Negatives**: Much bulkier than the light-duty Titan that it replaced; somewhat noisy diesel engine, particularly during hard acceleration.
- **Engine**: 5.0-liter Cummins turbocharged diesel V-8.
- **Transmission**: Six-speed Aisin automatic.
- **Power/torque**: 310 HP./555 foot-pounds.
- **Brakes, front/rear**: Disc/disc, antilock.
- **Length**: 243.6 inches.
- **Curb weight**: 7,323 pounds.
- **Electronic stability control**: Standard.
- **Side air bags**: Front seat-mounted; side-curtain both rows.
- **Trailer-towing capacity**: 11,960 pounds.
- **EPA fuel economy**: Not available – vehicle is exempt.
- **Fuel capacity/type**: 26.0 gallons/ultra-low-sulfur diesel.
- **Base price**: $54,730, plus $1,395 freight.
- **Price as tested**: $62,940, including freight and options (2019 Titan XD Pro-4X Diesel Crew Cab).
- **Major competitors**: Chevrolet 2500, GMC Sierra 2500, Ram 2500HD, Ford F-250.
- **On the Road rating**: 9.2 (of a possible 10).

Prices shown are manufacturer's suggested retail; actual selling price may vary.

Life & Style

Chinese leader visits Monaco amid European 5G tech worries

MONACO (AP)—Chinese President Xi Jinping has found one country in Europe that isn't worried about China's growing global clout or its ambitions to dominate the future of technology: Monaco.

Xi visited the tiny Mediterranean principality Sunday as part of a European tour that is clouded by mixed feelings about how to engage with China and benefit from its trade—while setting limits on its appetite for greater economic and diplomatic influence.

Xi's appearance alongside Monaco's Prince Albert and Princess Charlene marked the first state visit by a Chinese president to the principality. The palace said Monaco is interested in increased trade and economic cooperation with China and "boosting China's image in the principality."

Monaco last year clinched a deal with Chinese tech company Huawei to develop its 5G telecommunications network—a thorny issue for several European countries.

The U.S. government says Huawei's 5G network could give Chinese security services a backdoor to spy on consumers, and has pressed European partners to shun it. Huawei says the fear is unfounded.

Monaco imposed exceptional security for the Chinese visitors: The entire "Rocher"—the nickname for the cliff that Monaco is perched on—was effectively shut down for the day.

"It's the first time I've seen this ... stores closed, windows shuttered, no one in the street," said Marc Bonafede, owner of Le Castelroc restaurant in front of the palace. He said he hadn't seen such heavy security even when Albert buried his father, Prince Rainier, or held his royal wedding to Charlene.

Monaco banned all flights in its airspace during Xi's brief visit and any sailing in its waters or mooring in its luxury yacht-filled harbor.

The nearby French city of Nice, where Xi is spending the night, was similarly cordoned off. The Promenade des Anglais—the palm-lined beachside avenue that is the city's premier attraction—was closed to traffic all weekend. The promenade was targeted by a deadly extremist attack in 2016.

Outside the French resort town of Beaulieu-sur-Mer, where Xi was dining Sunday night with French President Emmanuel Macron, a police boat patrolled throughout the day, and police divers worked to secure the area.

Xi will sign energy and other contracts with Macron on Monday, then meet in Paris on Tuesday with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker.

CNN's profile of Kellyanne Conway gets social media blowback

NEW YORK (AP)—CNN's Dana Bash is learning the perils of doing personality profiles in a political city that's always on a war footing.

She's received a social media roasting this week for featuring White House adviser Kellyanne Conway as part of her ongoing feature series, "Badass Women of Washington." It was first distributed online late Wednesday, and it's unclear how much of it has been shown on the television networks.

Conway

Philippe Reines, a longtime communications adviser to Hillary Clinton, urged Bash on Twitter to "stop, just stop" and compared Conway to Joseph Goebbels, propaganda minister for Nazi Germany.

Bash's series was born two years ago, when she and coworkers wondered what Clinton's loss to Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election would mean for women working in Washington. Other profile subjects have included House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Republican National Committee head Ronna Romney McDaniel, California Sen. Diane Feinstein and Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao.

Some of Bash's online critics likened the Conway profile to "putting lipstick on a pig" and said Bash was shameless for posting a soft profile on a week that Conway's boss, President Donald Trump, has been aggressively criticizing Conway's husband. When Maggie Haberman, White House reporter for The New York Times, retweeted it as a timely story "from the great Dana Bash," she was attacked online, too.

Bash declined comment and a CNN spokeswoman would not immediately make anyone else available at the network to talk about it. Only Reines' comment drew a response from the CNN Washington correspondent on social media.

"I was ignoring your rants until you brought in the Holocaust," Bash wrote. "As the granddaughter of those who barely escaped the Nazis I implore you to take a deep breath."

Replied Reines: "I know your background, Dana. Invoking it won't shame me or spare you."

It must have felt a little familiar to Bash, whose Pelosi profile last November followed a similar outline: an interview about what it was like for a woman to work in Washington combined with a visit to where they spent their formative years.

She trailed Pelosi to Baltimore's Little Italy, buying chocolate ice cream in one of the speaker's favorite shops; Conway showed her a childhood home in working class southern New Jersey, where she was "Blueberry Princess" one year.

Get Out! Jordan Peele's 'Us' shatters records with $70.3M

This image released by Universal Pictures shows Lupita Nyong'o in a scene from "Us," written, produced and directed by Jordan Peele. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Jordan Peele has done it again. Two years after the filmmaker's "Get Out" became a box-office sensation, his frightening follow-up, "Us," debuted with $70.3 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The opening, well above forecasts, had few parallels. It was the largest debut for an original horror film (only the "It" remake and last year's "Halloween" have surpassed it in the genre) and one of the highest openings for a live-action original film since "Avatar" was released 10 years ago.

In today's franchise-driven movie world, seldom has a young director been such a draw. But moviegoers turned out in droves to see what kind of freak-out Peele could muster in his sophomore release.

"Peele has really crafted an extraordinary story that I think once again is going to capture the cultural zeitgeist," said Jim Orr, distribution chief for Universal. "He is recognized as just an amazing talent. He crafts films that make you think, that are extraordinarily well-acted, well-written and are amazingly entertaining."

1. **"Us,"** *$70.3 million* ($16.7 million international).
2. **"Captain Marvel,"** *$35 million* ($52.1 million international).
3. **"Wonder Park,"** *$9 million* ($5 million international).
4. **"Five Feet Apart,"** *$8.8 million* ($6.2 million international).
5. **"How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World,"** *$6.5 million* ($6 million international).
6. **"A Madea Family Funeral,"** *$4.5 million.*
7. **"Gloria Bell,"** *$1.8 million.*
8. **"No Manches Frida,"** *$1.8 million.*
9. **"Lego Movie 2: The Second Part,"** *$1.1 million* ($6.2 million international).
10. **"Alita: Battle Angel,"** *$1 million* ($1.6 million international).

"Us" took over the top spot at the box office from "Captain Marvel," which had reigned for two weeks. The Marvel Studios superhero release slid to second place with $35 million in its third week. In three weeks of release, it's made $910 million worldwide, and will soon become the first $1 billion release of 2019.

Other holdovers—the animated amusement "Wonder Park" and the cystic fibrosis teen romance "Five Feet Apart"—trailed in third and fourth with about $9 million each in their second week.

But the weekend belonged overwhelming to "Us," which more than doubled the $33.4 million domestic debut of 2017's Oscar-winning "Get Out." The former "Key & Peele" star's first film as writer-director, "Get Out" ultimately grossed $255.4 million on a $4.5 million budget.

"Us" cost $20 million to make, meaning it's already a huge hit for Peele and Universal Pictures, which notched its third No. 1 release of the year following "Glass" and "How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World."

It's also, as Peele has said, more thoroughly a horror film. While "Us" has drawn very good reviews (94 percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes), audiences gave it a relatively low "B" CinemaScore. Paul Dergarabedian chalked that up mainly to moviegoers feeling shell-shocked when they emerged from the theater.

"Us" stars Lupita Nyong'o and Winston Duke as vacationing parents whose family is faced with eerie doppelgangers of themselves. The film added $16.7 million from 47 international territories.

While "Us" was propelled by a number of things, including Nyong'o and buzz out of its SXSW premiere, the main selling point was Peele. The 40-year-old director already has an imprimatur matched only by veteran filmmakers like Clint Eastwood.

Germany: Michael Jackson exhibit opening amid revived claims

BONN, Germany (AP) — An exhibition of art about Michael Jackson is opening in Germany amid fresh controversy over the singer's alleged abuse of children.

Curator Nicholas Cullinan said Thursday the show at Bonn's Bundeskunsthalle was conceived long before the recent broadcast of HBO documentary "Leaving Neverland ," which details Jackson's alleged molestation of two boys.

Some radio stations in North America have since stopped playing Jackson's music. Jackson died in 2009.

The show previously was exhibited in London.

Cullinan said it "was never celebratory. It's about the complexity of Michael Jackson, how he means very different things to many very different people."

Ellen Heimes, who heads a local branch of Germany's largest child protection organization, said the show should prompt a debate about spotting and preventing child abuse.

Dubai denies there were plans for R. Kelly concert

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Dubai's government on Sunday forcefully denied a claim by R& B singer R. Kelly that the artist had planned concerts in the sheikhdom after he had sought permission from an Illinois judge to travel here despite facing sexual-abuse charges.

In a rare statement, the government's Dubai Media Office also denied claims by his lawyer in court that Kelly had plans to meet the sheikhdom's ruling Al Maktoum family.

"Authorities in Dubai have not received any request for a performance by singer R. Kelly nor are there any venues that have been booked," the statement said.

It added Kelly "has not been invited by the Dubai royal family for a performance."

In an email to The Associated Press, Kelly's lawyer Steven A. Greenberg responded saying: "Mr. Kelly had a signed contract with a legitimate promoter, and any information that was included in the motion to travel was from that contract. We did not say he was invited by The royal family, but the contract did provide that he would make himself available to meet with them."

Kelly was charged on Feb. 22 with 10 counts of aggravated sexual abuse for allegedly assaulting three girls and one adult woman, coming after the release of a documentary "Surviving R. Kelly." He has denied ever abusing anyone.

In a court filing last week, Greenberg had said the singer needed to raise money as "he has struggled of late to pay his child support and other child related expenses."

"Before he was arrested Mr. Kelly had signed a contract to perform between 3-5 shows in Dubai, UAE, in April 2019," the court filing read. "He requests permission to travel to Dubai for the shows. While there he is supposed to meet with the royal family."

The filing did not elaborate on where Kelly was allegedly supposed to perform. There was no immediately publicized event for which Kelly was known to be a performer, nor did anyone in the entertainment industry hear about one.

However, Dubai's luxury nightclubs often host hip hop and other artists for days at a time to perform and be seen among the millionaires of this skyscraper-studded city that is home to the world's tallest building. Rich families also pay for celebrities at their parties.

The UAE's seven emirates are overseen by hereditary rulers who hold absolute power. Dubai's ruler is Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, 69. His 36-year-old son, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, serves as Dubai's crown prince and is next in line to be ruler.

Dubai, home to the world's largest manmade archipelago the Palm Jumeriah and an indoor ski slope in its desert climes, has long drawn celebrities craving both luxury and seclusion. Will Smith is a repeated visitor. Lindsay Lohan lives off and on in the sheikhdom. David Beckham, Shah Rukh Khan and others are believed to own property in Dubai.

Candy Crush vs. Mortal Kombat for Video Game Hall of Fame

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP)—The World Video Game Hall of Fame fielded thousands of nominations for the Class of 2019 from more than 100 countries, hall officials said Thursday after narrowing the field to 12.

"Will 'Centipede' devour the competition? Can 'Mortal Kombat' fight its way to victory? Will 'Microsoft Windows Solitaire' play its cards correctly?" the Hall of Fame said in a news release revealing this year's 12 finalists. "Can 'Super Mario Kart' speed past the finish line? Is 'NBA 2K' a slam dunk?"

The other contenders are: "Candy Crush," ''Colossal Cave Adventure," ''Dance Dance Revolution," ''Half-Life," ''Myst," ''Sid Meier's Civilization" and "Super Smash Bros. Melee."

An expert committee will choose which finalists will be inducted May 2. Gamers can weigh in with an online ballot through March 28.

The World Video Game Hall of Fame , housed at The Strong museum in Rochester, recognizes individual electronic games of all types—arcade, console, computer, hand-held and mobile. Those deemed worthy of the hall have left a mark on the video game industry or pop culture and been popular over time and across countries.

Last year, "John Madden Football," ''Spacewar!" ''Tomb Raider" and "Final Fantasy VII" were honored. The Class of 2019 will be the fifth group to go into the hall since it was established in 2015.

Newzoo analysts estimated the video game market at nearly $140 billion in 2018, with more than 2.3 billion active gamers. The numbers dwarf the $43.4 billion in revenue generated by the American film industry.

The 12 Hall of Fame finalists span decades, gaming platforms and countries of origin, but all have had an impact, Jon-Paul Dyson, director of The Strong's International Center for the History of Electronic Games, said in the news release.

"Whether it's a true pioneer like 'Colossal Cave Adventure,' a mobile gaming phenomenon like 'Candy Crush' that's been played by hundreds of millions, or a game like 'Mortal Kombat' that pushed boundaries and changed the landscape of the gaming industry," Dyson said, "they're among the most influential games of all time."

Derulo reaches out to K-pop with 'Let's Shut Up & Dance'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jason Derulo is simultaneously looking ahead, looking back and looking across the ocean for his new project.

In "Let's Shut Up & Dance," the pop singer collaborates with Asian K-pop acts Lay Zhang and NCT 127 in a trans-Pacific partnership he thinks ought to be increasingly common in the musical future.

Derulo

At the same time, the single is the first of four in the coming months culminating in an EP boxed set of vinyl '45s in June that is a tribute to his childhood hero Michael Jackson.

Derulo, who has launched a number of Top 10 pop hits like "Whatcha Say" and "Talk Dirty" since emerging on the music scene in 2009, is looking to take inspiration from both past and future.

"I was so excited about this collaboration," Derulo said of Zhang, a member of the Chinese and South Korean boy band EXO, and NCT 127, a 10-member, Seoul-based boy group. "We come from totally different worlds, but I really, really love their talent."

Derulo has collaborated with everyone from pop hitmakers like Jennifer Lopez, Nicki Minaj and David Guetta to Colombian superstar Maluma and country music king Luke Bryan. The 29-year-old would seem to be too old to be a fan of the bubblegum musical style that has had Asian youth captivated for years and made serious inroads among American teens, especially with the success of the boy band BTS, who released two No. 1 albums in the U.S. last year and won honors at the Billboard Music Awards and American Music Awards.

For "Let's Shut Up & Dance," which has been viewed more than 18 million times on YouTube, Derulo takes the artists' styles from rainbow-hued to black, sexes up their usual youthful innocence and puts them in nighttime street scenes. But makes full use of their antic, athletic and synchronized dance moves.

"This was the norm back in the day in terms of dance," he said. "I feel like artists have become lazy."

The video has echoes of Jackson's work, and "The Greatest Dancer" EP where the song appears is set to drop on June 25, the 10th anniversary of the King of Pop's death.

The timing has also meant it comes when Jackson's legacy is being questioned on the heels of "Leaving Neverland," the HBO documentary on two men who accuse Jackson of molesting them as children, allegations the Jackson family and estate have denied and denounced.

Derulo said he is keeping the late artist he remembers separate from anything that may have happened privately.

"This has nothing to do with anyone's personal life," said Derulo, who had not seen "Leaving Neverland" when he spoke to the AP.

The Jackson influence in "Let's Shut Up & Dance" is not overtly expressed. There is no imagery of him, no sparkling glove or moonwalk.

"That was important to me," Derulo said. "This is not Vegas. I wanted to make sure in the song and the choreography that you can feel Michael's presence, and you can feel the influence, but it wasn't a copycat."

Derulo is also keeping busy with his role in "Cats," the movie version of the musical that dominated Broadway in the 1970s and '80s. Taylor Swift, Ian McKellen and Jennifer Hudson play felines alongside Derulo in the film, to be released Dec. 20.

"I was a musical theater kid, so theater and acting is always something I wanted to dive into. It was never the role that I thought could jump my acting career," he said.

Feds seek return of 'Amorous Couple' art looted by Nazis

NEW YORK (AP)—The U.S. government says it wants to return a painting to its true owner that was looted from a museum in Nazi-controlled Ukraine near World War II's end.

Manhattan prosecutors said Thursday that "An Amorous Couple," by Pierre Louis Goudreaux, was stolen from the Bohdan and Varvara Khanenko National Museum of the Arts in Kyiv, Ukraine, around 1943.

The U.S. says the painting, also called "A Loving Glance," resurfaced in 2013, listed on a New York auction house's website. The notice said it had been held in a private collection in London and then in Massachusetts.

The FBI determined it was bought from a Missouri auction house in 1993 by a New York dealer who consigned it to the auction house.

The government is seeking a court order to get the painting to return it to the museum.

In this photo provided by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, a painting entitled "An Amorous Couple," by Pierre Louis Goudreaux is shown. AP

David Letterman: I stayed on network TV for too long

NEW YORK (AP)—David Letterman says he stuck around on network television about 10 years too long.

He made that admission during an appearance Thursday on Ellen DeGeneres' talk show. Letterman quit in 2015 after 33 years as a late-night host on CBS and NBC, and is beginning his second season on his more leisurely-paced Netflix show.

"That's not true," DeGeneres told him.

"Yes, it is true," Letterman replied. "It turns out nobody had the guts to fire me."

The 71-year-old Letterman, still in his bushy post-retirement beard, said that you want to make sure you have enough energy for other things in life and, while his talk show was on, he didn't.

"I had to realize, 'Oh, I've been looking through the wrong end of the telescope,'" he said. "There's more to life than, 'Tell us about your pet beaver.'"

DeGeneres quipped: "Who was that guest?"

"Martha Stewart," Letterman joked.

Letterman was returning a favor, since DeGeneres will be a guest on his Netflix show, "My Next Guest Needs No Introduction."

Papa John's scores Shaq to help revive its image

NEW YORK (AP)—Papa John's is getting "Shaq-ified."

The pizza chain said Friday that basketball Hall of Famer Shaquille O'Neal will be its new pitchman, appearing in TV commercials and promoting Papa John's in other ways. The company hopes O'Neal can repair its image and revive its sales after the company's founder and namesake, John Schnatter, made racially insensitive remarks.

Besides being a spokesman, O'Neal will also join the company's board of directors and invest in nine of its restaurants in the Atlanta area.

"If you want to enjoy great pizza and feel loved by the people that serve the pizza, you can come back home now," O'Neal said in an interview with The Associated Press. "'The Daddy' is here."

The problems at Papa John's started in 2017, when Schnatter criticized the NFL's leadership and blamed protests by football players for falling pizza sales. Last year it was revealed that he used a racial slur during a media training session. Schnatter apologized for the slur and the company scrubbed his face from the company's logo and pizza boxes. He is still the Louisville, Kentucky-based company's biggest shareholder.

O'Neal said Schnatter's comments were "not acceptable," and said he told the company's executives that it needed more diversity in its leadership. He says he's the first African-American to join Papa John's board.

"We want to create a culture to let everybody know that they're loved, accepted and wanted," O'Neal said.

Papa John's International Inc. said it will pay O'Neal more than $8 million in cash

Shaq coming back to Miami next week—to play music

O'Neal

MIAMI (AP)—Shaquille O'Neal is coming back to play in Miami next week.

Play music, that is.

The former star center and four-time NBA champion still has a hectic life in retirement, with work as a television analyst and celebrity endorser and other off-court business interests. He's also serious about music and will be one of the headliners during the upcoming Miami Music Week—bringing his "Shaq's Fun House" and DJ skills back on March 29.

"Performing to me is my Game 7," O'Neal said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Game 7, down by one, the city needs you, everybody needs you, the crowd's going crazy. When you do these music festivals, the kids, they come to do two things—relieve stress and have a great time. Sports and music relieve stress, and I happen to dominate both."

O'Neal has studied the art of being a DJ for some time, even going back to his days with the Miami Heat and helping that franchise win its first world title in 2006. His first 'Fun House' was in Miami last year, also part of what organizers call the biggest week for dance music in the world. He also had a show as part of Super Bowl week earlier this year.

He's not the only performer at the Fun House: O'Neal handpicks top DJs from around the world, has celebrity guests and promises other surprises. Yet he knows that on these nights he's the star attraction—and embraces that people still

Barack Obama congratulates A-Rod J. Lo on their engagement

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Barack Obama is feeling the love about the engagement of Jennifer Lopez and Alex Rodriguez.

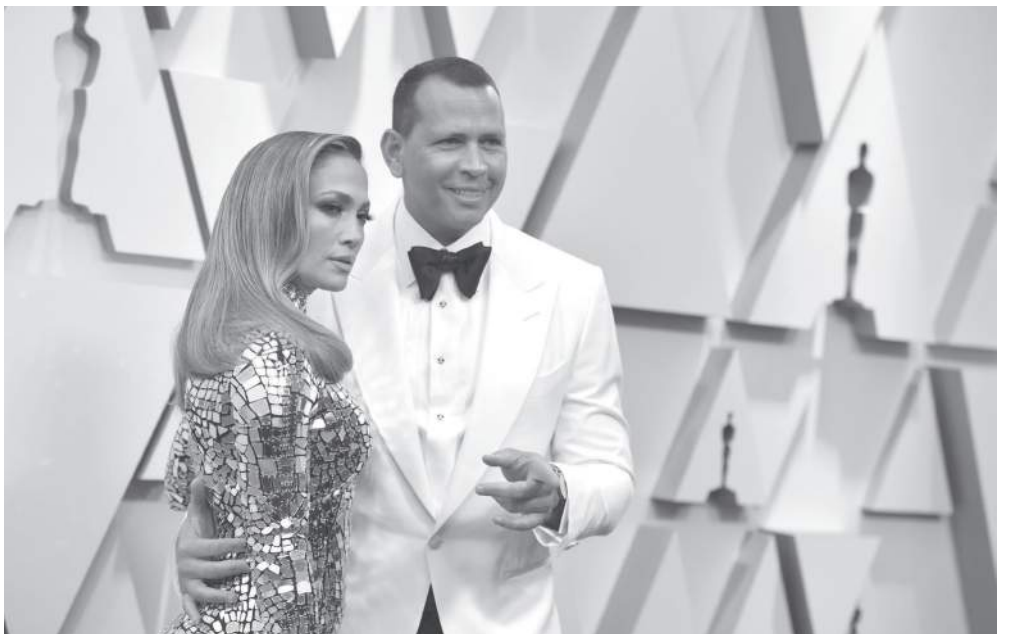
A-Rod shared a congratulatory handwritten note Thursday on Twitter he received from the former president and his wife, Michelle.

Obama wrote: "After 26 years together, we can say that whatever challenges life may bring, sharing them with someone you love makes it all better."

Rodriguez tweeted the note "means the world to us."

The former Yankees shortstop and the "World of Dance" judge got engaged earlier this month.

It will be Lopez's fourth marriage and Rodriguez's second. Each has two children from previous marriages.


In this Feb. 24, 2019 file photo, Jennifer Lopez, left, and Alex Rodriguez arrive at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. AP

New exhibit of items from Tutankhamun's tomb comes to Paris

PARIS (AP)—A new exhibit of artifacts from the tomb of ancient Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamun is opening in Paris more than 50 years after a similar exhibit set a visitor attendance record that still stands in the French capital.

Organizers said the 150 items in the exhibit, titled "Tutankhamun, Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh", are traveling outside Egypt for the last time before they go into a new museum near the Giza pyramids.

The exhibit was assembled to commemorate the upcoming centenary of British archaeologist Howard Carter's 1922 discovery of Tutankhamun's intact tomb and the treasures it held.

Paris, where the exhibit opens to the public Saturday at the Grande Halle de la Villette, is the second stop of a 10-city tour that started in Los Angeles.

The artifacts include gilded wooden statuettes, including one of Tutankhamun riding a black panther, a miniature coffin for the pharaoh's viscera painted in bright gold and blue, and jewelry decorated with lapis lazuli scarabs.

Curator Tarek El Awady said the exhibit attempts to answer "the most common question about why ancient Egyptians buried treasures like this" with dead pharaohs.

Tutankhamun might have used some items on display, like a pair of gloves, during his short life. He was 9-years-old when he became pharaoh and ruled ancient Egypt until he died at age 18 or 19.

Court hearing delayed for Loughlin, husband in college scam scandal

Loughlin

BOSTON (AP) — Actress Lori Loughlin (LAWK'-lin) and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, are scheduled to appear in federal court in Boston next month in a college admissions bribery case.

A judge on Thursday agreed to move their initial appearance to April 3 on charges that they paid $500,000 in bribes to get their daughters into the University of Southern California.

Their attorney had asked the judge to delay the hearing until April 15, saying the legal team had scheduling conflicts when the pair were initially scheduled to be in court on March 29.

Loughlin and Giannulli were among dozens of people arrested last week for allegedly participating in a nationwide college admissions cheating scheme .

Son feels mother's rejection after revealing that he is gay

DEAR ABBY: I love my mother, but our relationship has been awkward since I came out to her when I was 13. After I told her I was gay, she grew more and more distant. She went into full grandma mode for my sister and her sons and, in my eyes, neglected me.

She was seldom home, and when she was, we would argue about everything. It got so bad that I left and moved in with my aunt, who was like a mom to me. My sister told me she thinks Mom is in denial because every time my sister would want to talk about it, Mom would clam up.

Mom and I have NEVER talked about it. I clearly recall the day I came out. When I told Mom, she said she already knew. Then she added, "It's just a phase."

I'm sad that even after 12 years she still hasn't accepted that this is who I am and who I have always been. It upsets me that she doesn't know all of me. Should I have a sit-down talk with her like the adults we are?

SAME SON AS ALWAYS

DEAR SAME SON: Only you can make the decision to have that important conversation with your mother. Before you do, I'm advising you to contact an organization called PFLAG. PFLAG helps to build bridges of understanding between families and their LGBTQ members. You can find it by going online to pflag.org. If your concern is that your mother's position may force you to end your relationship with her, prepare in advance by making sure you have a loving support system around you.

DEAR ABBY: I am the caregiver for my 88-year-old mom and 89-year-old dad. It has its challenges. It would help if doctors would provide WRITTEN instructions, diagnoses and directions rather than rely on me to follow through. I take notes, but my parents hear what they want to hear. Without an actual note from the doctor, they tend to dismiss my notes as "that's not what he/she said." I'm sure I am not the only caregiver with this problem.

Recently, Mama's gynecologist advised her to see a urologist. It took me more than a month to convince her that it was what he said, and now we are looking at a urinary tract infection, which is not a good thing for an older woman.

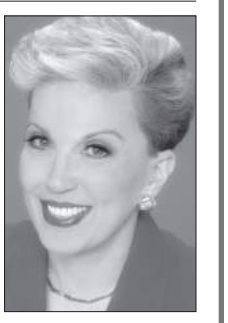
My parents are not at the point where I can simply kidnap them. I realize doctors don't get paid enough for their time by Medicare, but it sure would help us keep our elders healthy.

NOTE TAKER IN GEORGIA

DEAR NOTE TAKER: May I offer a suggestion that might prove helpful? When you take your parents for doctors' visits, record what you are told on your cellphone (in notes/memos). That way, you can replay the doctors' words verbatim regarding any diagnoses, instructions, etc. to your parents as necessary.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: When my daughter and her husband eat in a restaurant, he insists they order the same thing. If he thinks her plate looks better, he switches them. This baffles me. Does this happen to anyone else? What do you think of this?

BAFFLED IN ILLINOIS

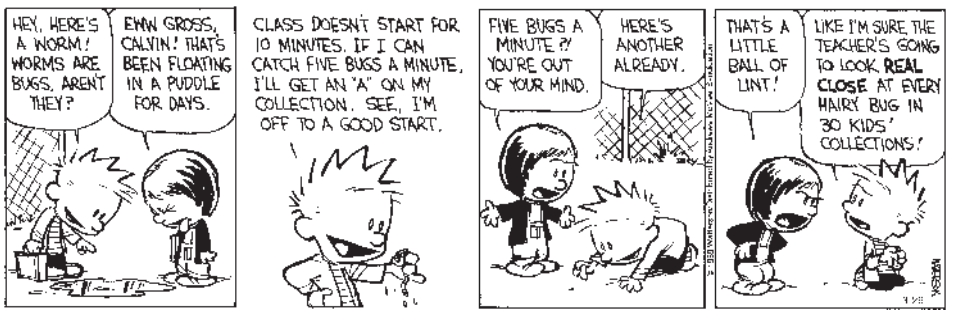
DEAR BAFFLED: I think your son-in-law has no consideration for your daughter's feelings, and that people who are greedy and inconsiderate about food are usually the same about other things. (He could also be controlling and/or have OCD.)

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HEY, HERE'S A WORM! WORMS ARE BUGS, AREN'T THEY?
EWWW GROSS, CALVIN! THAT'S BEEN FLOATING IN A PUDDLE FOR DAYS.
CLASS DOESN'T START FOR 10 MINUTES. IF I CAN CATCH FIVE BUGS A MINUTE, I'LL GET AN "A" ON MY COLLECTION. SEE, I'M OFF TO A GOOD START.
FIVE BUGS A MINUTE?! YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND.
HERE'S ANOTHER ALREADY.
THAT'S A LITTLE BALL OF LINT!
LIKE I'M SURE THE TEACHER'S GOING TO LOOK REAL CLOSE AT EVERY HAIRY BUG IN 30 KIDS' COLLECTIONS!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I WAS ON THE DEBATE TEAM
I EVEN WON MY FIRST DEBATE!
ACTUALLY, MY OPPONENT FORFEITED WHEN I STARTED TO CRY
PATHETIC, YET EFFECTIVE
YEAR BOOK

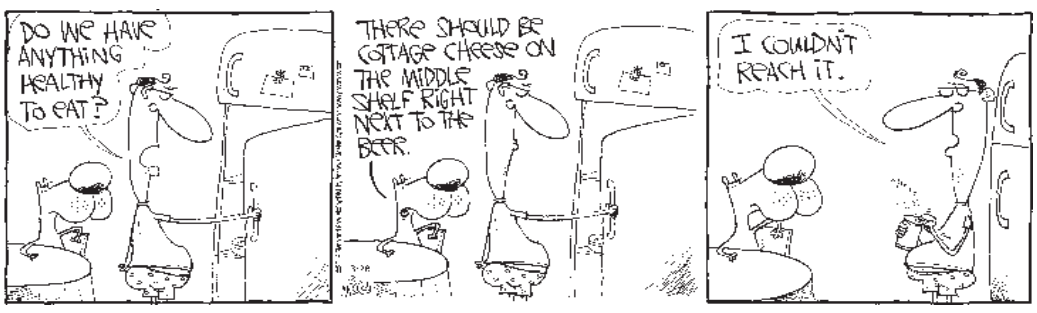
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SO, THE COFFEE SHOP STRUGGLED? JUST 'CAUSE I WASN'T IN FOR A WHILE?
WE DID. YOU'RE MY BEST CUSTOMER BY FAR.
WOW. I HAD NO IDEA.
ADAM, YOUR CINNAMON ROLLS ALONE PAID FOR MY KITCHEN REMODEL.
SEE? CARBS AREN'T ALL BAD
Special

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


DO WE HAVE ANYTHING HEALTHY TO EAT?
THERE SHOULD BE COTTAGE CHEESE ON THE MIDDLE SHELF RIGHT NEXT TO THE BEER.
I COULDN'T REACH IT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ancient Brit
5 Started
8 Fail to see
12 River to the Baltic
13 Spanish gold
14 "Do — others ..."
15 Opera set in Egypt
16 Used a Hoover, say
18 Baseball divisions
20 Diving ducks
21 Leb. neighbor
22 Ostrich's kin
23 Sousa composition
26 Empty, as a stare
30 Commotion
31 Melody
32 "Top Hat" studio
33 Flu forestaller
36 Autocrats
38 Tummy muscles
39 Chatter
40 Skirt style
43 Set of words
47 Work break
49 Nitwit
50 Pedestal occupant
51 In shape
52 Ancient Dead Sea land
53 Taxpayer IDs
54 NBC weekend show
55 Scarce

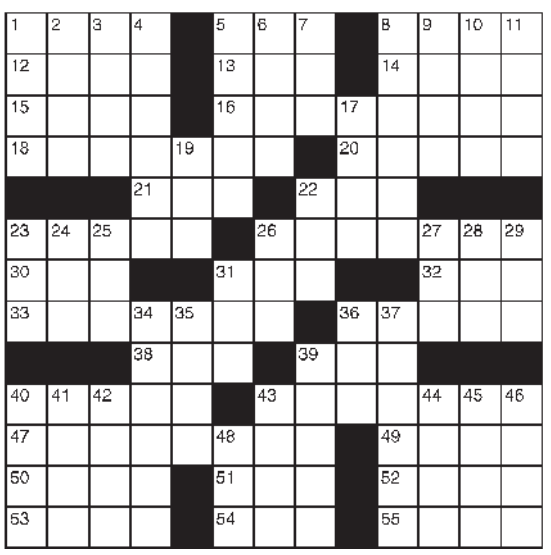
DOWN

1 Furnace fuel
2 Falco of "Nurse Jackie"
3 Spartan queen
4 Very sad
5 Paramour
6 Historic periods
7 Physician's nickname
8 Hawaiian garment
9 "By the power vested — ..."
10 Leftovers recipe
11 Lays down the lawn
17 Gomer Pyle's org.
19 Show to a seat, slangily
22 Hearing thing
23 Dallas hoopster, briefly
24 Nabokov novel
25 Sinbad's bird
26 Compete
27 Man-mouse link
28 Kiev's land (Abbr.)
29 "Mayday!"
31 Reply (Abbr.)
34 Suez and Erie, e.g.
35 "Yeah, right"
36 Levy
37 Web master?
39 Streisand title role
40 Hertz rival
41 Young fellows
42 PC picture
43 Pork cut
44 Musical finale
45 Bloodhound's clue
46 Alaskan city
48 Conditions

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	C	I	D		F	A	M		A	R	E	S
P	A	G	E		O	N	A		S	A	R	I
B	R	O	S		M	I	S	C	H	I	E	F
S	T	R	O	B	E		C	O	R	N	E	T
			T	O	P	T		D	A	B		
M	I	S	O	S	O	U	P		M	O	M	A
U	S	A		C	O	_	A	S		W	A	D
M	O	N	T		M	I	S	C	A	S	T	S
			G	A	B		P	S	A	S		
S	T	A	M	O	S		E	T	H	I	C	S
M	I	S	T	A	K	E	S		L	O	L	A
U	R	S	A		I	C	U		E	W	A	N
G	E	O	M		H	O	P		Y	A	M	S

Yesterday's answer 3-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Keira Knightley, 34; Kenny Chesney, 51; Martin Short, 69; Steven Tyler, 71.

Happy Birthday: Engage in activities that will give you the insight you need to make wise decisions. Don't take an unnecessary risk that could lead to an emotional situation that will deter you from reaching your goal. Handle finances properly and efficiently. Lower debt and save for the things that matter. Rethink your strategy to open up to new beginnings. Your numbers are 5, 16, 23, 26, 31, 35, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Update your skills to accommodate the changes going on at work or in your community. Being helpful will keep you in the loop, giving you more time to adjust and make the best move possible for yourself. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Put things in perspective. Don't become overwhelmed with detail and pressure when you should focus on your responsibilities and what needs to be taken care of. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of you physically, emotionally or financially. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Listen to your heart and the facts, not what others say or want to lead you to believe. Take the path that will encourage you to think positively and to fulfill your dreams. Make personal gains, love and new opportunities your priorities. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* A steady pace forward with well-thought-out plans in place will help ward off making an emotional mistake. A change will turn out better than anticipated. Don't rely on someone else to do a job if you want it done properly. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Gravitate toward people who are positive, nonjudgmental and caring. Stay away from those who are unpredictable and cause chaos. Walk away from bullies, drama and those trying to turn you into someone you don't want to be. Love who you are. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Live, learn and participate. Look for comfort in activities and events that bring you joy and people who share your interests. Limit expenses and walk away from temptation. Channel your energy wisely so you aren't disappointed. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't leave anything to chance. Look at all your options, and introduce changes that make you happy. Don't overspend on products that promise the impossible. Focus on inner growth, not exterior changes, and you'll gain confidence and self-satisfaction. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Explore new possibilities, and develop your ideas and plans. Personal changes should be kept within budget and approved by those who will be affected by your plans. A creative endeavor will turn you on to something that brings you joy. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Alter your environment to better suit your needs. Making room for something you want to pursue will help you get started. Someone will make you an interesting offer, but before you agree, get what you want in writing. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Concentrate on getting things done. Put your energy to good use in order to accomplish your goals. An unusual suggestion will raise suspicion. Double-check the accuracy of the information you've been given before you decide to get involved. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Slow down and figure out what's best for yourself. If someone pushes, back away until you are ready to make a change. Work hard, avoid controversy and finish what you start. Personal gains and improvements should be your priorities. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Look at the big picture before you engage in something that may not be as good for you as you are led to believe. Concentrate on the things that will bring the highest return and the people you can trust. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unique, open-minded and playful. You are ambitious and proactive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4		6	9					8
		7		2		4		
5	8	2					9	
3				5				
	5						2	
				6				7
	7					6	5	9
		4		9		3		
9					8	7		1

Difficulty Level ★★

3/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	5	3	6	2	7	9	1	4
2	1	4	3	5	9	8	7	6
9	7	6	8	4	1	5	3	2
7	2	5	1	8	3	4	6	9
6	9	8	4	7	2	3	5	1
3	4	1	5	9	6	2	8	7
4	3	7	2	1	8	6	9	5
5	6	9	7	3	4	1	2	8
1	8	2	9	6	5	7	4	3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

"YOU" (NETFLIX SERIES) Solution: 9 letters

O	P	C	R	U	S	H	T	E	B	A	Z	I	L	E
Y	E	N	O	O	M	R	M	S	E	R	I	E	S	R
G	A	L	L	A	G	H	E	R	C	L	O	V	E	O
U	C	J	O	H	N	N	C	O	K	Y	B	I	L	T
I	H	O	B	Y	P	E	O	A	J	K	C	M	I	S
N	E	G	S	E	E	S	G	R	Z	C	O	C	A	P
E	R	R	K	G	I	L	E	A	U	I	S	A	L	G
V	R	E	L	S	R	N	G	P	T	N	E	N	I	S
E	Y	B	L	U	M	O	T	D	I	R	R	D	T	N
R	B	D	N	I	C	E	V	E	A	D	A	A	N	A
E	H	L	N	S	H	A	Y	E	R	B	N	C	A	V
D	S	O	Y	O	E	L	O	C	I	N	N	E	L	O
W	A	G	L	L	E	H	C	T	I	M	E	N	R	D
I	N	G	E	R	G	N	A	K	N	A	H	T	E	A
N	C	L	A	U	D	I	A	E	H	T	Y	L	B	P

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Annika, Ashby, Beck, Berlanti, Blum, Blythe, Candace, Cartagena, Cherry, Claudia, Cosgrove, Crush, Dr. Nicky, Edwin, Elizabeth, Ethan, Gallagher, Gamble, Goldberg, Greg, Guinevere, Internet, Joe, John, Kang, Kepnes, Lail, Love, Luca, Lynn, Mitchell, Mr. Mooney, Nice, Nicole, Paco, Padovan, Peach, Penn Badgley, Pucci, Ron, Sera, Series, Shay, Store, Zach

Yesterday's Answer: Tradition

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- Experience in assisting required.

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No Phone calls please

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New (Full-Time)

- Minimum 3 years Clinical experience required
- Must be able to assist dentist, know sterilization set-up instruments, take radiographs.
- Must have reference and letter of recommendation.
- We are not willing to train individuals lacking the necessary skills for this position.

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No Phone calls please

NEW WAVE DENTAL
Is looking to hire one (1) employee to work as

Insurance Claims Clerk
(New/Full-Time)

- Must have minimum of (1) years working experience in dental insurance claim processing
- Must be familiar with coding specific for dental procedures electronic claim processing and related computer skills.
- Must have reference and letter of recommendation.
- We are not willing to train individuals lacking the necessary skills for this position.

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CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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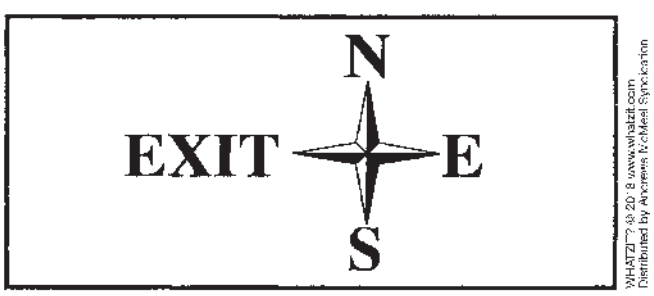
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Gronkowski announces retirement after 9 seasons

BOSTON (AP)—The party's over for Rob Gronkowski. Then again, it might just be getting started.

The New England Patriots' fun-loving, touchdown-spiking tight end announced Sunday that he is retiring from the NFL after nine mostly dominant, Super Bowl-filled seasons.

The four-time All-Pro posted his decision on Instagram , saying that a few months shy of his 30th birthday "it's time to move forward and move forward with a big smile."

"It all started at 20 years old on stage at the NFL draft when my dream came true, and now here I am about to turn 30 in a few months with a decision I feel is the biggest of my life so far," Gronkowski wrote in his post. "I will be retiring from the game of football today."

Drew Rosenhaus, Gronkowski's agent, confirmed his client's decision to retire.

The playmaking tight end, who turns 30 in May, leaves as a three-time Super Bowl champion who established himself as one of the most dominant players at his position and one of Tom Brady's favorite targets. His personality — on and off the field— was as big as his biceps, and he always seemed to be the life of the party.

"In the nine years that I have known Rob Gronkowski, I have never known him to have a bad day," Patriots owner Robert Kraft said in a statement. "He always has a youthful exuberance about him and is a joy to be around.

But Gronkowski has been dogged in recent seasons by back, knee, ankle and arm injuries that have limited his ability to stay on the field.

AP

In this Feb. 3, 2019, file photo, New England Patriots' Rob Gronkowski (87) celebrates with teammates after the NFL Super Bowl 53 football game against the Los Angeles Rams in Atlanta. Gronkowski says he is retiring from the NFL after nine seasons.

It led him to hint at retirement following New England's Super Bowl loss to the Philadelphia Eagles to end the 2017 season and again last month after the Patriots' Super Bowl win over the Los Angeles Rams.

In his Instagram post, Gronkowski thanked the Patriots organization, coach Bill Belichick and New England's fans for their support during his nine NFL seasons.

"Thank you for everyone accepting who I am and the dedication I have put into my work to be the best player I could be," Gronkowski wrote.

Belichick said Gronkowski was a major reason the Patriots won championships.

"His production spoke for itself, but his daily attitude, unmistakably positive energy wherever he went and toward whoever he touched will never be forgotten," Belichick said in a statement.

Gronkowski's teammates also almost immediately began to flood social media with well-wishes.

"Love you man!!" Brady wrote on Instagram, along with an emoji of a goat to refer to Gronkowski as the greatest of all-time. "Couldn't be a better person or teammate!!!!"

It was a sentiment shared by receiver Julian Edelman.

"The other goat," Edelman posted on his Instagram page, also referring to Brady.

Though he won't have the longevity of some of his contemporaries at tight end, Gronkowski is expected to get strong consideration for the Pro Football Hall of Fame when eligible.

Gronkowski, a second-round pick in the 2010 draft, had his fourth career 1,000-yard receiving season in 2017 and was an All-Pro for the fourth time that season.

But at times he looked like a shell of himself during the Patriots' Super Bowl run this past season. Gronkowski finished the 2018 regular season with just 47 catches for 682 yards and three touchdowns.

He had one of his best games of the season in the Patriots' Super Bowl win over the Rams, hauling in six catches for 87 yards, including two receptions on New England's only touchdown drive during their 13-3 victory.

A fan favorite in New England for his gregarious and playful persona that included awkward dance moves and touchdown celebrations, Gronkowski was one of the most dominant tight ends of his era.

His 12 career postseason touchdown receptions are the most by a tight end in NFL playoff history. His 81 career postseason catches are also best among tight ends.

He'll also retire with 79 career TD catches—regular season and playoffs—which is third all-time by a tight end behind only Antonio Gates (116) and Tony Gonzalez (111).

Brady and Gronkowski connected on 78 TD passes. It is the second-most scoring connections between a quarterback and a tight end in NFL history behind only Philip Rivers and Gates (89) and is fifth overall between quarterbacks and all pass-catchers.

"Rob will leave an indelible mark on the Patriots organization and the game," Brady said, "as among the best, most complete players at his position to ever play."

Meanwhile, former Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Jeremy Maclin has also announced his retirement after nine seasons.

The 30-year-old Maclin announced his decision in a Twitter post Sunday. He adds that he will post a letter and video in the near future to explain why he is choosing to walk away from the game.

The speedy Maclin was the 19th overall pick by the Eagles in the 2009 draft out of Missouri and went on to play six seasons in Philadelphia. He made his only Pro Bowl as an alternate after the 2014 season when he had 85 catches for a career-best 1,318 yards and 10 touchdowns.

He signed a five-year, $55 million contract the following offseason with Kansas City. Maclin played two years for the Chiefs, who released him after the 2016 season. He spent the following season with Baltimore, where he had career lows of 40 receptions and 440 yards receiving. The Ravens released him in March 2018 and Maclin didn't play last season while rehabilitating a hamstring injury.

Maclin finishes with 514 career catches for 6,835 yards and 49 TD catches.

Giants owner: Trading Beckham came with 'reluctant approval'

PHOENIX (AP)—For all the off-field shenanigans, verbal discord and injuries, Odell Beckham Jr. still is a special player. Giants owner John Mara recognizes that in the wake of the team trading the standout wide receiver to Cleveland earlier this month.

"They made an offer that Dave (Gettleman, the Giants' general manager) and Pat (Shurmur, the coach) found compelling, and we ultimately approved it," Mara said Sunday at the NFL owners meetings. "It was a reluctant approval because I like Odell."

Mara, whose grandsons cried when told of the trade, acknowledged it's "not going to be easy" to see what Beckham does for the Browns. He didn't specify if he might bawl as well.

"The toughest phone call I had to make was to my grandsons to tell them we traded their favorite player," Mara said. "They sobbed uncontrollably."

But Beckham is gone in exchange for a first- and third-round draft selection and safety Jabrill Peppers, who should be a starter with Landon Collins leaving for Washington in free agency.

New York wound up 5-11 and last in the NFC East, including going 2-6 at home. Beckham missed four games; the year before, he missed 12 with a severe ankle injury that could have threatened his career.

"There were always extra issues," Mara said, referring in part to a one-game suspension in 2015 for an on-field feud with then-Carolina cornerback Josh Norman. "But I thought they were manageable ones, particularly given the talent."

One thing Mara doesn't find so manageable is the criticism his team is taking for keeping Eli Manning as the starting quarterback. The Giants pick sixth in next month's draft and have two first-rounders, so selecting a QB is highly possible. But the two-time Super Bowl MVP, at 38, is considered the No. 1 guy.

"Do I feel a certain amount of sentimentality toward Eli? Of course I do," Mara said. "But would I ever let that get in the way of making a football decision? Absolutely not.

"We'd never tell a coach or a general manager we have to keep this guy because we love him or because he's done so much for the franchise. You make a football decision based on whether you think he can play or not. I do believe we can win with him if we continue to surround him with the right people."

Meanwhile, the Detroit Lions have signed free agent cornerback Rashaan Melvin.

The Lions announced the move Saturday. Melvin is entering his sixth NFL season.

Melvin played for the Oakland Raiders in 2018, appearing in 14 games with seven starts. Prior to Oakland, he spent time with Indianapolis, New England and Baltimore.

Melvin entered the NFL with Tampa Bay as a rookie free agent out of Northern Illinois in 2013. He made his NFL debut with Baltimore in 2014.

He's played in 51 games in his career, starting 28.

In New York, the Buffalo Bills have signed free agent tackle and tight end Jake Fisher and free agent linebacker Maurice Alexander to one-year contracts.

Fisher's deal was announced Friday after he visited the team's facility. He was drafted in the second round in 2015 by Cincinnati and spent his first four seasons mostly as a backup.

Djokovic loses temper, but still wins 3rd round match

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Novak Djokovic pulled a spare ball from his pocket, angrily whacked it against the backstop and then pounded his uncooperative racket into the concrete.

He lost his temper, but not the match. Annoyed after squandering a second-set lead, Djokovic regrouped and beat Federico Delbonis 7-5, 4-6, 6-1 Sunday in the third round of the Miami Open.

Djokovic appeared on his way to an easy victory when he led 3-1 in the second set, but he dropped serve twice in a row. He then steadied himself to win a succession of long rallies and sweep the last five games.

"We were very close in the beginning of the third set," he said. "It could have gone a different way."

The top-ranked Djokovic is trying for his seventh title at the Miami Open, which moved this year to the Dolphins' complex.

Defending men's champion John Isner was broken in the first game but he held the rest of the way and hit 16 aces to beat Albert Ramos-Vinolas 7-5, 7-6 (6).

Isner, now 33, won the biggest title of his career in the tournament a year ago. Seeded No. 7, he'll next face No. 19 Kyle Edmund, who beat No. 12 Milos Raonic 6-4, 6-4.

Djokovic's fourth-round opponent will be No. 22 Roberto Bautista Agut, who eliminated No. 15 Fabio Fognini 6-4, 6-4.

"I'm hitting the ball well," Djokovic said. "I just need a little more consistency to hold that level of play the entire match."

Crowds on the outer courts were again large and festive, but the atmosphere in the vast stadium was more subdued, with the stands only half full for Djokovic's match.

"It's a unique stadium in tennis," he said. "It's obviously different from anything we've experienced before. It's not a tennis venue. We're guests here of the Miami Dolphins."

On the women's side, defending champion Sloane Stephens lost to Tatjana Maria 6-3, 6-2. Venus Williams, who is a three-time Miami champion but unseeded, beat No. 14 Daria Kasatkina 6-3, 6-1

Williams advanced to the fourth round of the tournament for the 16th time. She lost serve four times against Kasatkina but won every return game, going 8 for 8.

"I've never had a match like that before in my life," she said. "There's always a time for a first. I'm returning really well."

Williams won the title in 1998, 1999 and 2001. She's unseeded at Miami for the first time since 2012 but seems to be enjoying herself, smiling often—including when Kasatkina hit a shot between her legs.

AP

Novak Djokovic of Serbia runs down a shot from Federico Delbonis of Argentina during the Miami Open tennis tournament, Sunday, March 24, 2019, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

"I never smile on the court, and this week I've smiled a lot," Williams said. "There's a lot to smile for. That's all I can say."

She next faces No. 2 Simona Halep, who outlasted Polona Hercog 5-7, 7-6 (1), 6-2.

"I was running like crazy for three hours," Halep said. "If I keep doing this, I think I have a chance to be back No. 1."

A loss Saturday by top-ranked Naomi Osaka opened the door for Halep to reclaim the top ranking if she reaches the final.

Stephens, seeded No. 4, was beaten by a player outside the top 50 for the third time this year. Another American, No. 25 Danielle Collins, lost to Wang Yafan 7-5, 6-1.

Kerber rips Canadian teen

Indian Wells champion Bianca Andreescu beat Angelique Kerber for the second time in a week, and the result left hard feelings.

Andreescu reached the fourth round, winning 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 in a match that ended early Sunday.

Andreescu took a medical timeout after seven games to receive treatment on her right arm.

"Biggest drama queen ever," Kerber told Andreescu while offering only a brusque handshake following the match.

Andreescu, an 18-year-old Canadian, defeated Kerber in the Indian Wells final for her first career title.

World Cup role reversal as Germany triumphs and Croatia struggles

Germany is winning again, and Croatia is struggling. The World Cup feels like a long time ago.

After a year of problems off the field—and humiliation on it—the new Germany is finally starting to look like the old Germany. Grit, determination and Nico Schulz's 90th-minute winner earned the Germans a confidence-boosting 3-2 win over the Netherlands on Sunday in a European Championship qualifier.

"It's good for the self-belief of this young team," said Germany coach Joachim Loew. "I can live with criticism. I know what our potential is."

Croatia looked a shadow of the resilient team which reached the World Cup final in July as it lost 2-1 to Hungary in Budapest. Spells of confusion in the Croatian defense are likely to concern coach Zlatko Dalic in a group where four teams look like contenders for two qualifying spots for Euro 2020.

Facing old rivals the Netherlands for the third time in six months, Germany enjoyed its revenge.

The Dutch beat Germany 3-0 in Amsterdam in October and earned a last-gasp draw in the return fixture. Those results helped to relegate Germany from the top tier of the Nations League—further embarrassment after its disastrous 2018 World Cup campaign when it failed to advance from the group stage.

Schulz's winner came just when it looked like his team had let the Dutch salvage a draw from 2-0 down in the Group C game.

Eight months after reaching the World Cup final, Croatia is unexpectedly struggling.

Croatia's defense was at times overwhelmed by a spirited Hungary team, conceding one goal to a fine passing move masterminded by Balazs Dzsudzsak, and the other after panicky set-piece defending.

Since losing the World Cup final to France, Croatia's results have been wildly inconsistent.

Trout says he's 'an Angel for life' with new contract

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)— Mike Trout smiled into the postcard-perfect Orange County sunlight and said exactly what every Los Angeles Angels fan has spent years hoping to hear.

"I know there was a lot of talk about going back East, but I enjoy every minute being here," Trout said Sunday. "This is my home. I love it. I think the direction of the franchise, if it was going the other way, I would have had to consider going. But it never crossed my mind. I was going to be an Angel for life, sure."

The crowd around the main entrance to Angel Stadium burst into raucous cheers, and so did Trout's dozens of teammates and coaches in the audience below the podium.

The $426.5 million, 12-year contract for the two-time AL MVP is an extraordinary reward for a singular homegrown talent who never wanted to leave. After returning from spring training with their franchise cornerstone firmly in place, the Angels paused on the final weekend before the regular season to celebrate Trout being home to stay.

"I want to bring a championship back to Anaheim. Let's go, baby!" Trout said.

Trout got the biggest contract in North American sports history last week, securing his future with the Angels instead of waiting to entertain offers from the Phillies, Yankees or any other likely suitor when he reached free agency in two years. The native of southern New Jersey has been linked to Philadelphia for years, but Trout remained devoted to the organization that drafted him in 2009 and fostered his development into a superstar.

"He was born an Angel, and he was raised an Angel, and he represents this organization better than anybody," Angels general manager Billy Eppler said. "He'll be the first player to go into the Hall of Fame like that for the Angels."

Trout is a seven-time All-Star who has finished in the top two of AL MVP voting six times. Among the innumerable jaw-dropping numbers posted by the 2012 AL Rookie of the Year are a career .990 OPS, 240 homers and 64.9 wins above replacement since he reached the majors in 2011.

Eppler said the parameters of Trout's long-term deal have been on his mind ever since he got the job in late 2015. The Angels have been talking about getting a deal done since 2017, and their talks with agent Craig Landis picked up last month when everyone decided a quick agreement could wipe out two years of uncertainty.

With remarkably little drama, Trout and the Angels got it done. The deal includes no opt-out clauses to allow Trout to renegotiate because neither party wanted the options.

"It's a historical contract," Eppler said. "But as far as historical contracts go, it was a pretty smooth one. ... Mike wants this to be his last contract, so we checked that box right from the get-go."

Eppler was 100 miles outside Phoenix on a flight back to spring training last week when Landis texted him with confirmation that Trout would accept the Angels' deal, saying he wanted to be "an Angel for life." Unlike last winter, when he got the news that Shohei Ohtani had chosen the Angels, Eppler didn't fall out of his chair this time.

Lamb's triple from half-court lifts Hornets vs Raptors

TORONTO (AP)— Jeremy Lamb added a dose of March Madness to Sunday's NBA action.

Lamb banked home a half-court shot at the buzzer and the Hornets beat the Toronto Raptors 115-114, Charlotte's third straight win.

"It feels great," Lamb said. "We fought so hard the whole game. Everybody who came in contributed and played well. They made a big run late. It just feels good to get that win and cap it off like that."

Toronto looked to have won the game after Kawhi Leonard hit the go-ahead basket with 44 seconds left, then blocked Kemba Walker at the other end.

Charlotte got one final chance after Leonard missed a jumper with 5.8 seconds to go. Pascal Siakam knocked the inbounds pass away from Lamb, who chased the ball into the back court before launching the game-winning 3-pointer.

"He made a tough shot," Siakam said. "I don't know how I could have defended it better. Yeah, March Madness."

Hornets coach James Borrego called Lamb's basket "a contested bomb."

According to ESPN, Lamb's winning shot was from 48 feet, making it the second-longest, game-winning buzzer-beater in the past 20 seasons. Tyreke Evans hit a 49-footer against the Grizzlies on Dec. 29, 2010.

"I know he threw up a prayer," Walker said of Lamb's long heave. "I guess the basketball gods were on our side tonight. That was an unbelievable shot."

Walker had 15 points and 13 assists and Willy Hernagomez had 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Hornets.

"It's a big win," Walker said. "That's an unbelievable team over there. They're going to be a force to be reckoned with in the playoffs. That was impressive.

AP
Charlotte Hornets guard Kemba Walker (15) and Toronto Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard (2) scramble for the ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, March 24, 2019, in Toronto.

Bucks 127, Cavaliers 105

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo showed few signs he was bothered by an ailing right ankle, getting 26 points and 10 rebounds to lift Milwaukee over Cleveland.

Antetokounmpo was listed as questionable after missing two of the three previous games with an ankle sprain. He made 11 of 16 shots and had seven assists in 32 minutes.

Khris Middleton and George Hill added 17 points apiece for the Bucks. Hill was acquired from the Cavaliers in a three-team trade in early December.

Milwaukee improved to an NBA-best 55-19.

Warriors 121, Pistons 114

In Oakland, California, Stephen Curry had 26 points, Klay Thompson added 24 and Golden State rebounded a night after a blowout loss.

The Warriors fell 126-91 to the Dallas Mavericks on Saturday, but that was with Curry resting on the bench. He came back strong against Detroit, and Golden State also got 14 points and 11 assists from Kevin Durant. Draymond Green added 14 points and eight assists.

The win moved the Warriors (50-23) back into the first seed in the Western Conference by a half-game over the Nuggets (49-23).

Rockets 113, Pelicans 90

In New Orleans, James Harden scored 28 points in a little less than 29 minutes, and Houston downed New Orleans.

Chris Paul had 10 points and 13 assists, and Eric Gordon added 18 points for the Rockets, who hit 21 3s in winning for the fifth time in six games to move a game ahead of Portland for the third seed in the Western Conference.

Anthony Davis had 12 points and 10 rebounds in just less than 21 minutes for the short-handed Pelicans.

Spurs 115, Celtics 96

In Boston, LaMarcus Aldridge had 48 points and 13 rebounds, and San Antonio gave short-handed Boston its fourth straight loss.

The Spurs have won 10 of 12 to strengthen their grip on a Western Conference playoff spot. San Antonio (43-31) is eighth in the conference, a half-game behind Oklahoma City and Utah.

Aldridge had his second-highest scoring output of the season. He scored 56 points on Jan. 10 against the Thunder.

Marcus Smart led the Celtics with 14 points.

Pacers 124, Nuggets 88

In Indianapolis, Bojan Bogdanovic scored 26 of his 35 points in the first half to lead Indiana over Denver.

Myles Turner had 17 points and 11 rebounds, and Domantas Sabonis added 15 points and 13 rebounds for the Pacers, who returned home after dropping four in a row during a West Coast swing.

Nikola Jokic had 19 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists, Will Barton had 15 points and reserve Monte Morris scored 12 points for the Nuggets.

Clippers 124, Knicks 113

In New York, Danilo Gallinari scored 26 points to extend the best scoring streak of his career, and Los Angeles beat New York for its fifth straight victory.

Lou Williams had 29 points and fellow reserve Montrezl Harrell added 24 to provide their usual potent play off the bench for the Clippers, who began play tied with Oklahoma City and Utah for fifth place in the Western Conference.

Lakers 111, Kings 106

In Los Angeles, Kyle Kuzma scored 21 of his 29 points in the third quarter, LeBron James had 29 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists and the Lakers ended a five-game losing streak.

JaVale McGee had 17 points and 14 rebounds to help the Lakers win for the third time in their past 15 games.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	51	23	.689	—
x-Philadelphia	47	26	.644	3.5
Boston	43	31	.581	8.0
Brooklyn	38	36	.514	13
New York	14	60	.189	37

Central Division

y-Milwaukee	55	19	.743	—
x-Indiana	45	29	.608	10
Detroit	37	36	.507	17.5
Chicago	21	53	.284	34
Cleveland	19	55	.257	36

Southeast Division

Miami	36	37	.493	—
Orlando	35	38	.479	1
Charlotte	34	39	.466	2
Washington	30	44	.405	6.5
Atlanta	26	48	.351	10.5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific Division

x-Golden State	50	23	.685	—
LA Clippers	44	30	.595	6.5
Sacramento	36	37	.493	14
LA Lakers	32	41	.438	18
Phoenix	17	57	.230	33.5

Southwest Division

x-Houston	47	27	.635	—
San Antonio	43	31	.581	4
New Orleans	31	44	.413	16.5
Memphis	29	44	.397	17.5
Dallas	29	44	.397	17.5

Northwest Division

x-Denver	49	23	.681	—
Portland	45	27	.625	4
Oklahoma City	43	30	.589	6.5
Utah	43	30	.589	6.5
Minnesota	33	40	.452	16.5

x- clinched playoff spot
y- clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

March Madness: Duke barely survives Central Florida

COLUMBIA, S.C.—There was always a danger of this for Duke, even as the No. 1 team in college basketball won all but one game this season when fully healthy.

Imperfectly constructed, crazy reliant on youth, often prone to tossing bricks at the rim, the margin between history and infamy was destined to be so, so thin.

And on Sunday night, at the very last moment of a second-round howitzer of an NCAA tournament game, that margin was literally one roll of a ball off the rim.

Duke escaped the second round, 77-76, barely holding on to beat No. 9 seed Central Florida when B.J. Taylor's runner caromed too strong off the glass and a follow-tip by Aubrey Dawkins caught three different parts of the rim before gravity pulled it off to the side.

"It kills me that it didn't fall," Taylor said.

"I thought it was going to go," said UCF coach Johnny Dawkins, Aubrey's father and one of Mike Krzyzewski's first great players at Duke in the mid-1980s.

"Coach K talks a lot about the basketball gods," said Zion Williamson, the spectacular Duke freshman. "They had our back tonight."

As Krzyzewski acknowledged, Duke got a little bit lucky. But a team constructed around three lottery picks shouldn't need to feel like it won the lottery just to beat the third-place team from the American Athletic Conference, even in a crazy format like the NCAA tournament that is built for monumental opening-weekend upsets.

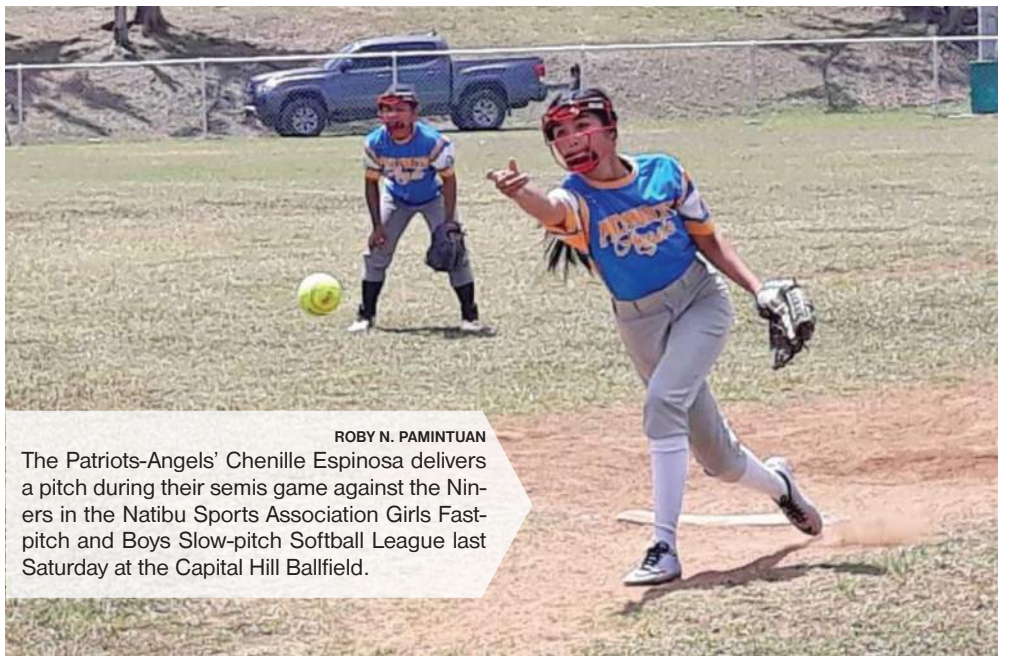
Sure, UCF was brilliant, putting forth one of the best losing efforts in recent memory. First there was Aubrey Dawkins, who scored 32 points on 12-of-18 shots and unleashed a barrage of second-half jumpers that nearly made him a tournament legend. And then there was Tacko Fall, the 7-foot-6 giant who wasn't so gentle when he had to defend Williamson on Sunday,. Combined with the elder Dawkins' second-half adjustment to drop his defense completely off Duke's poor outside shooters and use Fall as an anchor in the paint to mess with Duke's sightlines, a team that came into the tournament as an afterthought looked like it was ready to bust everyone's bracket.

"You miss and make shots, and you've got to live with it," Aubrey Dawkins said. "We got the opportunity, and it just didn't go."

But the thing is, it's now clear how easy Duke's offense is to discombobulate because for all the great recruiting of McDonald's All-Americans that Krzyzewski has done recently, this year he forgot to get a couple more who can shoot.

Tre Jones, the Blue Devils' defensive bulldog of a point guard, has been ultra-valuable this season in so many ways. But in a game like this, where it was clear UCF wanted to test whether a 24 percent three-point shooter was going to make them completely unguarded, he was too quick to oblige by going 1-for-8 from the arc. At one point in the second half, when it looked like Duke was a few good possessions from pulling away, he hoisted jumpers on three straight trips, completely changing the energy of the situation in UCF's favor. In the second half, Duke shot just 35% and needed every last one of them to escape into the East Regional semifinal.

Patriots-Angels take first final seat



ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
The Patriots-Angels' Chenille Espinosa delivers a pitch during their semis game against the Niners in the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch and Boys Slow-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

The Patriots-Angels blanked the Niners, 26-0, to punch the first finals ticket in the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch and Boys Slow-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The Patriots-Angels' showcased impressive offensive and defensive performances right in the first inning to set up the easy win. They scored seven runs at the bottom of the first against none from the Niners and the trend continued in the last four innings. Leadoff batter Tiah Camacho opened with a solo homer, while Kiana Aldan also hit a round-tripper and brought with her Chenille Espinosa.

The Patriots-Angels delivered seven runs anew in the second inning and this time it was Kiana Camacho who slammed a homer to start things off for their team. Espinosa, Aldan, and Cassandra Camacho later capitalized on the Niners pitcher's errors to make it home and pad the Patriots-Angels' lead.

The unbeaten squad kept going in the third, as Kiana Aldan powered in another home run that also drove in Kiana Camacho, while Cass Camacho reached off Christy Aldan's homer. Laniyo rounded out the Patriots-Angels scoring in the third to help widen the gap, 19-0.

Despite the huge lead, Kiana Aldan was not done yet, as she blasted another homer, while her teammates also reached home, allowing the Patriots-Angels to ease their way to the finals.

Laniyo, Cassandra Camacho, and Kiana Aldan finished the lopsided semis match with four runs apiece with the latter going 4-for-4 at bat. Espinosa and Kiana Camacho added three runs each, while Alannah Sablan, Christy Aldan, Fransie Elleisar and Tiah Camacho logged two runs apiece to complete the blowout.

On the defensive end, Espinosa led the Patriots-Angels, as she struck out five Niners batters. With Espinosa playing steady on the mound and the rest of her teammates also holding their ground, the Niners reached third base only once (third inning). The Patriots-Angels' defense also forced the Niners to 1-2-3 in the first, fourth, and fifth inning.

After eliminating the Niners, next up for the Patriots-Angels is Balas, as they duel for the title this Saturday at 12pm. The Niners will play in the consolation match at 10am versus the Ayuyus.

Torchbearers scorch Geckos

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Agape Christian School 1 hammered Saipan International School, 85-53, during the lone game in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Varsity Basketball League yesterday.

The Torchbearers roasted the Geckos right from the opening tip for the convincing victory at the former's court in Gualo Rai.

Agape 1 took a 22-12 lead after the first period, thanks to Silas Xu. The Agape player came off the bench and blindsided the Geckos, as he scored 9 points, while Jonathan Xiong churned out 8, and starting center Mark Shao cleaned up after his teammates' misses for two putbacks. A.J. Hudkins and Jason Sablan each netted 4 markers in the opening period for SIS, while Michael Lee and Kuu Nishimura had one basket apiece.

Xu continued to deliver for Agape 1, adding 8 more points in the second quarter. Shao also used his ceiling to knock in two more point-blank baskets, while Xiong and John Chen each logged 4 more to hand the Torchbearers a 44-21 advantage in the first half.

Agape picked up where they left off in the second half en route to the 32-point winning margin.

Xu converted a 3-point play to start the third canto, Xiong picked the Geckos' pockets several times and cashed in on three fast break baskets, while Shao struck again from the paint. When the third period wrapped up, Agape 1 was enjoying a comfortable lead, 56-34.

Then in the final period, the Torchbearers upped the ante, behind Xiong's 14-point outburst. Xu chipped in 9 markers, while reserves Steven Yaomin and Jerry Yuan combined for 6. While Agape 1 went for the kill in the fourth canto, SIS only got one triple apiece from Hudkins, Lee, and Henry Qian, and as the Geckos simply could not match the Torchbearers' firepower.

Xiong finished the game with 32 points, while Xu added 30. Mark Shao also had double figures with his 10 points, while Hudkins, Lee, and Jason Sablan mustered 14,13, and 12 points, respectively, for the Geckos.

Agape 1 improved to an 8-5 card, while SIS fell to a 5-6 slate. The two teams face off again today at the Geckos court in As Lito for their last game in the regular season.

Also scheduled this afternoon is the semis match between GCA and Agape in the girls division with the winner battling Mt. Carmel School in the title game this Friday.

ACS 1 85—Xiong 32, Xu 30, Shao 10, Yoomin, 6, Chen 4, Yuan 2, Wang 1

SIS 53—Hudkins 14, Lee 13, Jason Sablan 12, Qian 5, J.P. Sablan 4, Nishimura 3

Scoring by quarters: 22-12, 44-21, 56-34, 85-53.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Agape Christian School's Jonathan Xiong goes up for an off-balance shot against Saipan International School's A.J. Hudkins during their game in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at Agape's court in Gualo Rai.

TWIN

From Page 28

might over Woo after earning a 6-3, 6-3 victory. Schorr barged into the finals after downing Sean Lee, 6-2, 6-1, and CNMI national team coach Jeff Race, 6-1, 6-3. Woo also swept his two opponents—Vincent Tudela (6-1, 6-2) and Bobby Cruz (6-2, 6-4) to set a title duel against Schorr.

In other results, Malika Miyawaki, Daniel Kang, Nason Wessel, Hwang, Hyejin Elliot, Dana Lee, and Serin Chung also won in the second and final week of the tournament.

Serin notched a pair of titles, as she teamed up with Dana Lee in earning the girls U12 doubles crown and then partnered with Elliot in taking the U16 doubles tiara. Serin and Dana prevailed against Hoo Wang and Anna Kwon in the semis, 7-5, 6-2, and then defeated Helen Kim and Seiyul Hong in the finals, 6-0, 6-3. Kim and Hong made it to the title game following a 6-2, 6-3 triumph over Irin Chung and Savita Sikkel.

In the girls U16 doubles finals, Serin and Elliot won their head-to-head showdown against Maria Gregoire and Kim, while Wessel and Hwang did the same in their boys U12 doubles finals match Wataru Kadokura and June Yu.

In the men's open 4.0 singles, Daniel Kang topped Andy Kim in the finals, 6-3, 6-2, while in the women's open singles, Miyawaki swept Mayuko Arriola, 6-0, 6-2.

Meanwhile, PIC Saipan would like to thank the following for supporting the two-weekend competition: Triple J Truckload, Kensington Hotel, Bridge Capital, LLC, and Pacific Trading Company.

CNMI

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Road Park Football Pitch.

"It's a great opportunity for the team since we did not have much tournament early this season. Also this will gauge where we are at as far as our preparations for the Marianas Cup and the U15 East Asian Football Federation tournament are concerned," Ito said.

The group resumed its training for upcoming competitions in December last year after taking a long break due to Super Typhoon Yutu. Training sessions are held three times a week and each practice lasts for two to two and a half hours. The core of the squad also plays in Division B of the Men's M-League.

Majority of the members of the team have donned the colors of the Commonwealth and very competitive, so Ito said expectations from the squad will be a bit high when they play in the Hong Kong tournament.

"We are no longer the underdog team, so our players need to step up and play their best game every time they go out there," the team manager said.

Special send-off

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his wife, Diann, NMIFA president Jerry Tan, NMIFA Executive Committee member Patricia Coleman, and other NMIFA officials were among the well wishers of the Hong Kong-bound squad.

Coleman, who also heads NMIFA's Women's Committee, said the tournament in Hong Kong is special, not only because it's the association's first off-island event for the season, but it also comes at a time when people around the world are celebrating International Women's Month.

"Not everyone has an opportunity like this (to play and represent the CNMI). Women in other parts of the world are not even allowed to watch a game in the pitch, so you are all very fortunate to have this chance," Coleman said.

"We are thankful to NMIFA, led by our president, Jerry Tan, for making sure that we get to have the same strong program that our men's players have, that we continue to promote women's football in the CNMI," she added.

For her part, first lady Diann Torres said it's great to see young ladies representing the CNMI and working hard every practice to make sure they are ready for the games.

"I am sure all your hard work will be worth it. We will be rooting for you, show them the Hafa Adai spirit and go out there to do your best," Diann Torres said.

Meanwhile, although Tan acknowledged that the CNMI's opponents in the Hong Kong tournament are all tough, he believes our players are no pushovers either.

"Governor, I have to tell you, I watched them play in the M-League a couple of weeks ago. I don't know what the coaches did to them, but I am pleasantly surprise with how much they understand how to play women's soccer as a team. That's something I am very proud of," Tan said.

The NMIFA head also thanked the Hong Kong organizers for making adjustments just to accommodate the CNMI team. The competition is only for U17 players, but since NMIFA could not come up with 20 players in such a short notice due to travel document problems, Jockey Club allowed the visiting team to be reinforced by five U19 players.

Tan acknowledged, too the players' parents for letting their children be part of the program.

"Women's football and our other programs would not be successful without the parents' support. I am happy that every week, we get to see more and more parents coming to the pitch to watch their kids play," he said.

Gronkowski announces retirement after 9 seasons

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Lamb's triple from half-court lifts Hornets vs Raptors

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CNMI players off to HK tourney

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI U17 Girls National Team players and coaches are joined by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, fourth right, front row, first lady Diann Torres, second left, front row, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, third left, front row, and other well-wishers for a group photo during a send-off ceremony at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI U17 Girls National Team co-captains Jerlyn Castillo, second left, and Julianne Hall, fourth left, receive the CNMI flag before they leave Saipan to compete in a tournament in Hong Kong.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U17 Girls National Team leaves Saipan early this morning to compete in the Jockey Club Girls International Youth Invitational Football Tournament 2019 in Hong Kong.

The squad is made of 22 players with 20 of them listed on the official roster and two as observers. Suiting up for the team are Emalyn Aniana, Christina Atalig, Nathanette Blas, Jenny Ann Capayas, Mia Carreon, Jannah Casarino, Jerlyn Castillo, Katrina Costales, Shairmane Francisco, Marinel Falalimpa, Julianne Hall, Khristelle Itaas, Stellalou McCallion, Lilian Podziewski, Gillian Villagomez, Britany Wally, Guinevere Borja, Katherine Magat, Abigail Decena, and Summer Manahane, while Rizza Relucio and Julie Ann Capayas are also part of the group.

Olympian Luam Khen Koo will coach the group, while goalkeeper coach Jimmy Tang, assistant coach Irish Pagarao, physiotherapist Hazel Mabasa, and team manager Angie Ito complete the CNMI delegation, which is backed by the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association.

"Majority of our players are in the U17 age group and we are allowed to bring in five U19 players. We also have players who are 12 years old and they are joining the team so they could watch and see how an international tournament is played," said Ito in an interview before the send-off for the squad yesterday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

In Hong Kong, the CNMI bets will be playing against the host (March 28), Guam (March 29), and Laos (March 31) at the Po Kong Village

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Twin wins for Schorr

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REPORTER

Tan Siu Lin Foundation/Northern Marianas Sports Association Male Student Athlete of the Year Robbie Schorr lived up to high expectations after winning two division titles in the 19th Pacific Islands Club Tennis Championships.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Robbie Schorr makes a follow through after returning a shot from the baseline during a doubles game in the 19th Pacific Islands Club Tennis Championships at the PIC Saipan hard court.

Schorr first bagged the boys U16 doubles championship with Anthony Gregoire after they survived Jimin Woo and Jun Cheol Hwang in an extended finale last Sunday at the PIC hard court. Schorr and Gregoire dropped the closely fought first set, 6-7 (4-7), but prevailed in the last two, 7-6 (7-5), 10-6, to secure the division crown.

The eventual champions made it to the finals following a 7-6, 6-2 semis triumph over David Kwon and Jun Wang, while Hwang and Woo advanced after eliminating Andy Kim and Sam Ryu, 6-2, 6-2. Kim and Ryu earlier ousted Daniel Kang and Isaac Heo, 7-6, 6-4, to march into the Final Four.

After the tough doubles finale, Schorr returned to the court to duel Woo anew and this time with the men's open singles crown at stake. Pacific Oceania's No. 1 U16 player went on to assert his

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